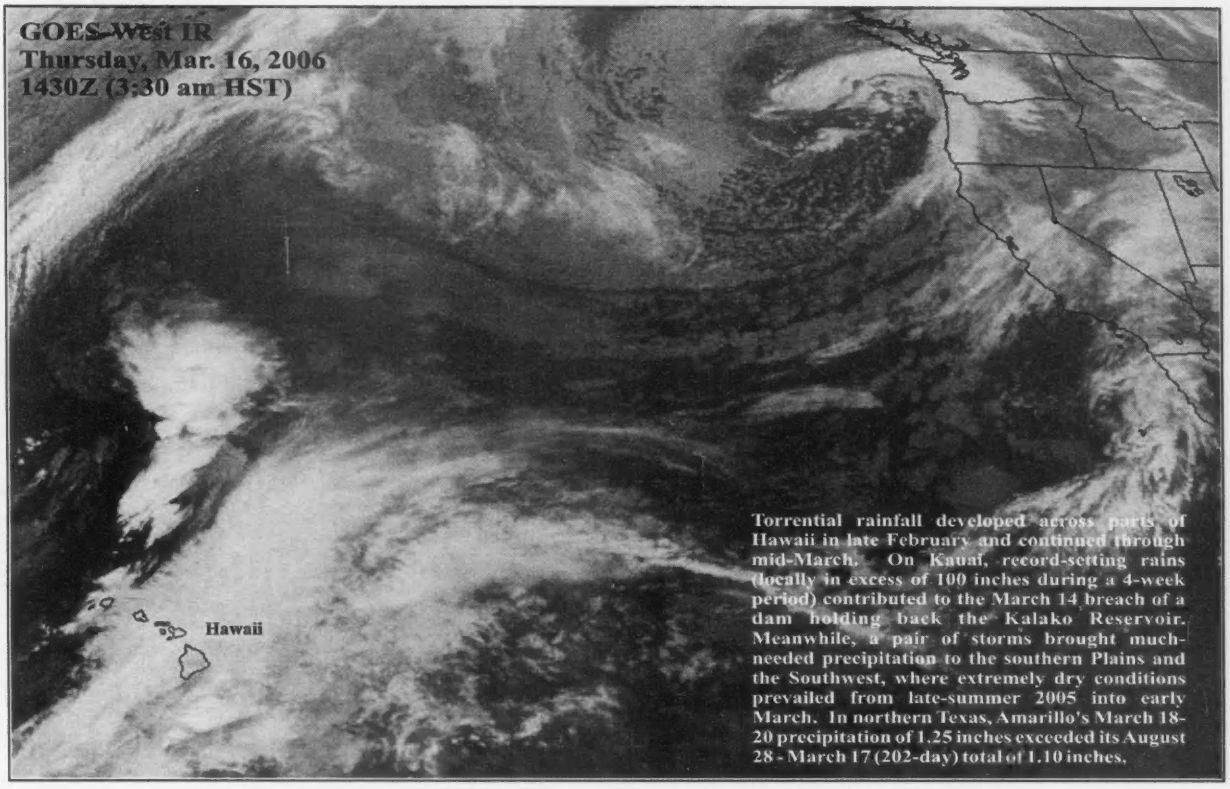
Volume 93, No. 12 http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/wwcb.html March 21, 2006

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board



Torrential rainfall developed across parts of Hawaii in late February and continued through mid-March. On Kauai, record-setting rains (locally in excess of 100 inches during a 4-week period) contributed to the March 14 breach of a dam holding back the Kalako Reservoir. Meanwhile, a pair of storms brought much-needed precipitation to the southern Plains and the Southwest, where extremely dry conditions prevailed from late-summer 2005 into early March. In northern Texas, Amarillo's March 18-20 precipitation of 1.25 inches exceeded its August 28 - March 17 (202-day) total of 1.10 inches.

HIGHLIGHTS

March 12 - 18, 2006

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

A pair of major, late-winter storms generated a variety of conditions, including severe thunderstorms, heavy snow, and flooding. However, conditions worsened on the **southern Plains** before precipitation arrived. On March 12, high winds drove wildfires across hundreds of thousands of acres in **eastern New Mexico**, **western Texas**, and **Oklahoma**. The wildfires were blamed for at least 10 human fatalities, mostly traffic-related. Toward week's end, however, rain soaked the previously parched **southern Plains**, curbing the threat of fires and helping to begin reviving pastures and rangeland. However, the moisture arrived too late to significantly improve prospects for the **southern Plains'** winter wheat crop. In contrast, winter grains on the **northern and central Plains** greatly benefited

(Continued on page 5)

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Water Supply Forecast for the Western United States

Highlights

In March, Southwestern storminess temporarily established or boosted snowpacks and marginally improved spring and summer runoff potential. However, even with the late-season snowfall, most basins in Arizona and New Mexico continued to report season-to-date (October 1, 2005 - March 21, 2006) precipitation below 50 percent of average.

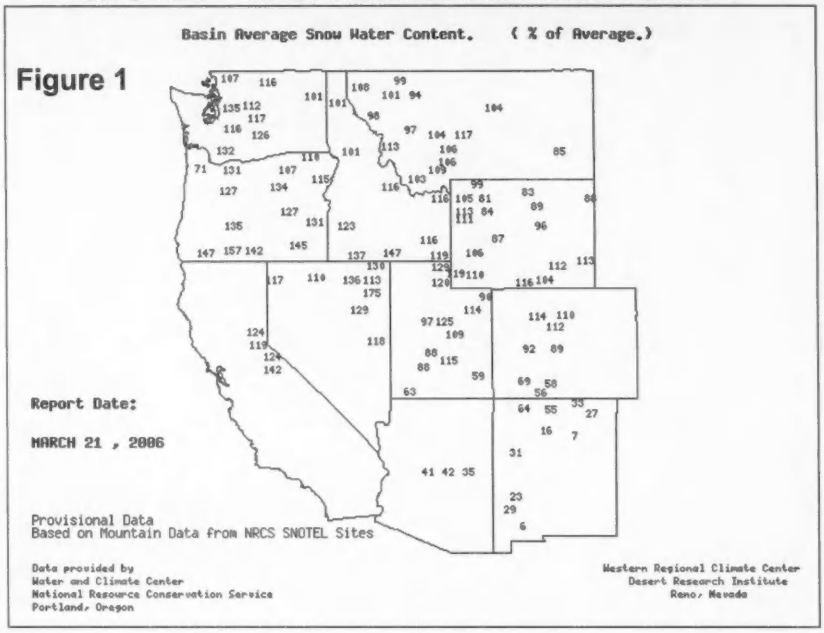
As of March 1, bleak spring and summer runoff prospects (less than 25 percent of average in some basins) in the Southwest contrasted with forecasts for abundant runoff (greater than 150 percent) in some basins across Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. Meanwhile, reservoir holdings continued to reflect the positive effects of last winter's abundant precipitation in the Southwest, but remained below average in parts of the Northwest due to lingering storage deficits in the wake of a multi-year drought.

Snowpack and Precipitation

On March 21, 2006, the snowpack map reflected extremely low (generally less than 50 percent of average) snowpacks in Arizona and much of New Mexico (figure 1). Even a Southwestern stormy spell in March provided only a slight boost to snow water equivalency values. Farther north, however, snow packs topped 150 percent of normal for the date in a few basins across southern Oregon and northern Nevada.

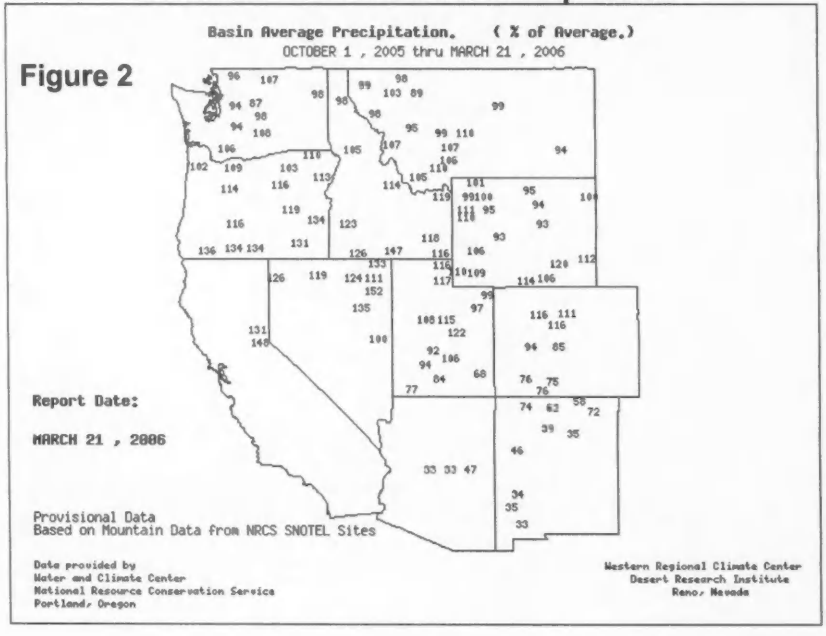
SNOTEL – River Basin Snow Water Content

Figure 1



SNOTEL – River Basin Precipitation

Figure 2


Basin Average Precipitation. (% of Average.)
OCTOBER 1 , 2005 thru MARCH 21 , 2006
Report Date:
MARCH 21 , 2006
Provisional Data
Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
Data provided by
Water and Climate Center
National Resource Conservation Service
Portland, Oregon
Western Regional Climate Center
Desert Research Institute
Reno, Nevada

Season-to-date precipitation (October 1, 2005 - March 21, 2006) also showed below-average totals in the Southwest and near- to above-average amounts elsewhere (figure 2). Totals were less than 50 percent of average in Arizona and much of New Mexico, but were near 150 percent of average in some basins from the Sierra Nevada northeastward into southern Idaho.

Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts

As of March 1, 2006, a majority of river basins in the Southwest were forecast to experience well-below-average spring and summer streamflows (figure 3). Above-average streamflow is forecast for many basins in Oregon, Nevada, central and southern Idaho, northern Utah, southern Wyoming, and northwestern Colorado. Near- to slightly below-average streamflow is forecast elsewhere, including much of Washington, Montana, northern portions of Idaho and Wyoming, and the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

Reservoir Storage

As of March 1, 2006, reservoir storage for all Western States was slightly below historic averages, except in Arizona, California, and Nevada (figure 4). In those three States, storage was above average.

For More Information

The National Water and Climate Center homepage provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. Please visit:

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

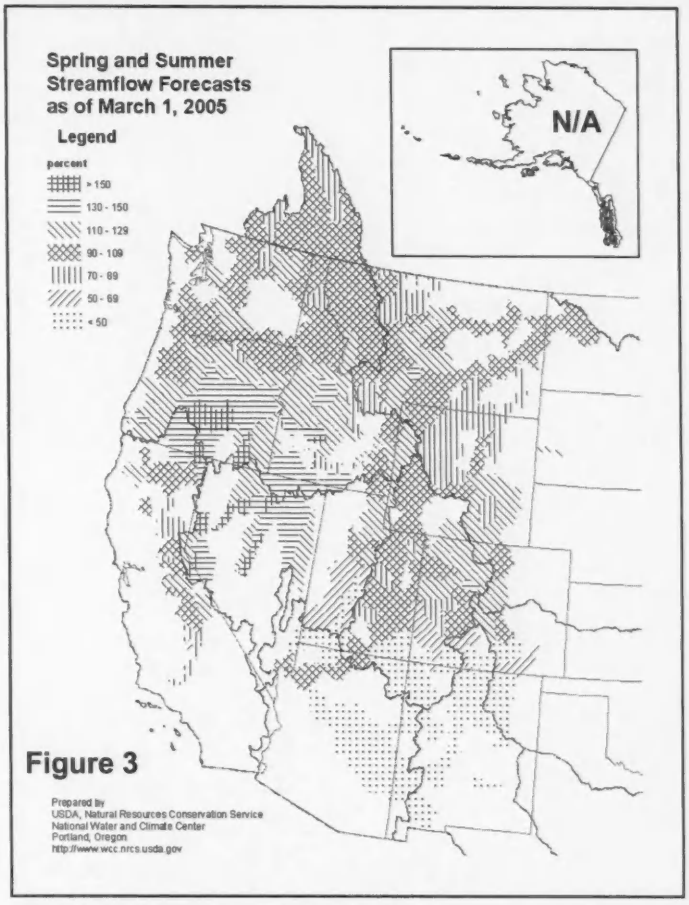


Figure 3

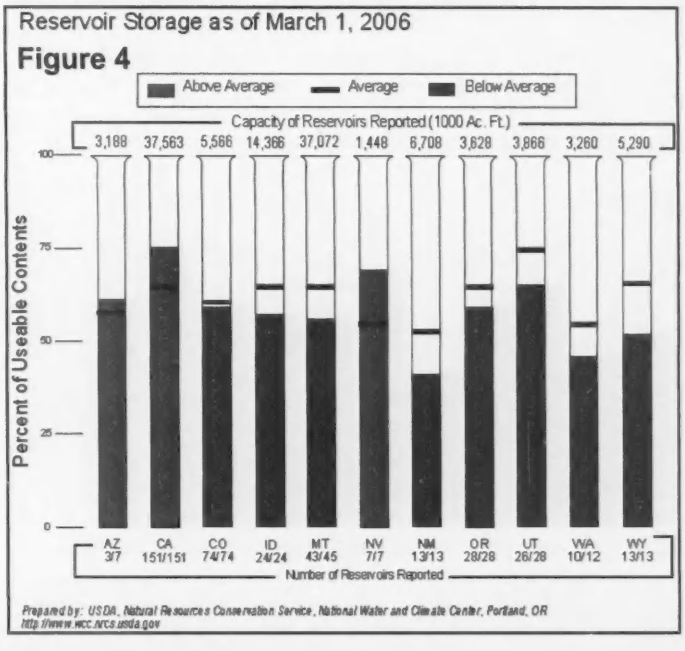
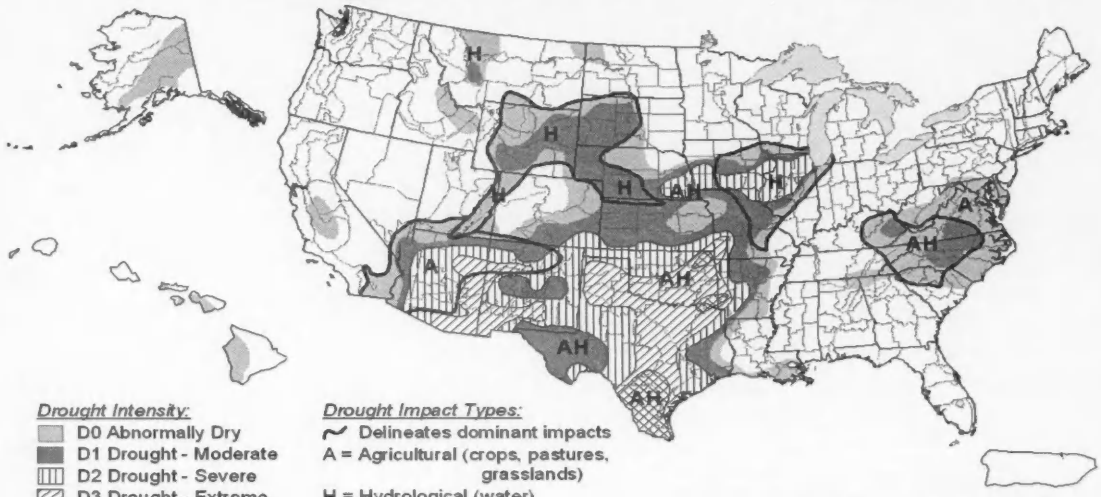


Figure 4

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 14, 2006
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

USDA | National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, March 16, 2006
Author: Rich Tinker, CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Through June 2006
Released March 16, 2006

KEY:
- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

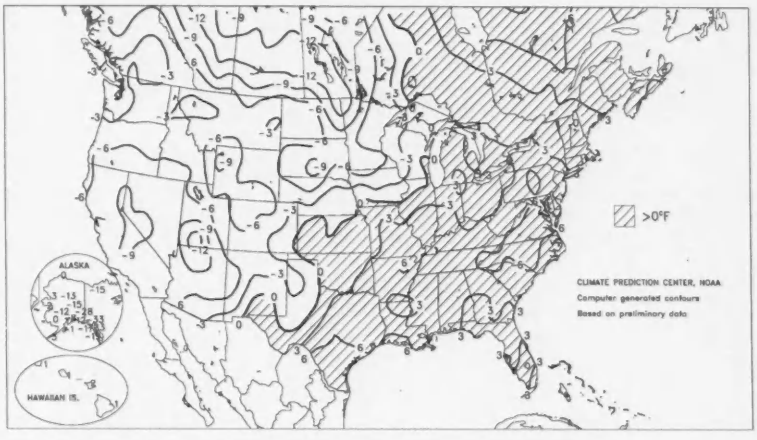
Depicts general, large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by numerous indicators, including short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more that a few days in advance, so use caution if using this outlook for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4). For weekly drought updates, see the latest Drought Monitor map and text. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

(Continued from front cover)

from widespread rain and snow, especially late in the week. Meanwhile, the **Corn Belt** received much of its precipitation from the earlier storm, which produced a band of heavy snow across the **upper Midwest** and sparked strong thunderstorms and caused flash flooding across the **lower Ohio, middle Mississippi, and lower Missouri Valleys**. According to preliminary reports, the March 11-12 severe weather outbreak included well over 100 tornadoes—the highest two-day March total in U.S. history—which caused at least 10 deaths. Farther south, late-week rainfall sparked local flooding in previously drought-affected areas across the **Arklatex region**. In the **Southeast**, warm weather for much of the week promoted the development of winter grains and blooming fruit trees, despite diminishing soil moisture reserves. Elsewhere, **Southwestern** rangeland continued to benefit from the previous week's topsoil moisture improvements, followed by a second round of much-needed precipitation. Meanwhile, cool, unsettled conditions persisted in much of **California**, where **Central Valley** producers monitored the effects of a month-long spell of showers and below-normal temperatures on blooming nut trees and other weather-sensitive crops. Weekly readings ranged from more than 10°F below normal in parts of the **Southwest** to as much as 10°F above normal in the **southern Mid-Atlantic States**, although cool air encompassed much of the Nation by week's end.

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

MAR 12 - 18, 2006



The March 11-12 severe weather outbreak smashed the Nation's 2-day record for tornadoes in March (previously, 68 tornadoes on March 19-20, 1976). In **Missouri** alone, the March 11-12 outbreak was responsible for nine deaths and approximately 42 tornadoes. Even outside of the tornado-affected areas, high winds caused damage. In **Moline, IL**, a gust to 107 m.p.h. was measured on March 12. Meanwhile on the **southern High Plains**, an explosion of wildfires on March 12 charred several hundred thousand acres of grassland and other vegetation. Fires were fanned by winds as high as 73 m.p.h. in **Artesia, NM**, and 62 m.p.h. near **Hart, TX.** By March 20, the Nation's year-to-date wildfire acreage climbed to 1.77 million acres, up from 0.54 million acres on March 6.

Meanwhile, heavy snow spread from the **Southwest** to the **upper Midwest**. **Flagstaff, AZ**, received 10.3 inches of snow on March 12-13, boosting its 4-day total to 30.0 inches and its season-to-date sum to 32.8 inches. Farther north, daily-record totals for March 12 included 8.3 inches in **Casper, WY**, and 7.9 inches in **East Rapid City, SD. Upper Midwestern** storm totals topped 10 inches in locations such as **Minneapolis, MN** (10.7 inches on March 12-13), and **Marquette, MI** (20.8 inches on March 13-14). Elsewhere in **Michigan**, **Muskegon** received a daily-record rainfall of 2.92 inches on March 13, while **Grand Rapids** clocked a wind gust to 55 m.p.h. A second, smaller storm crossed the **Midwest** on March 15-16, dropping another 8.6 inches of snow on **Minneapolis**.

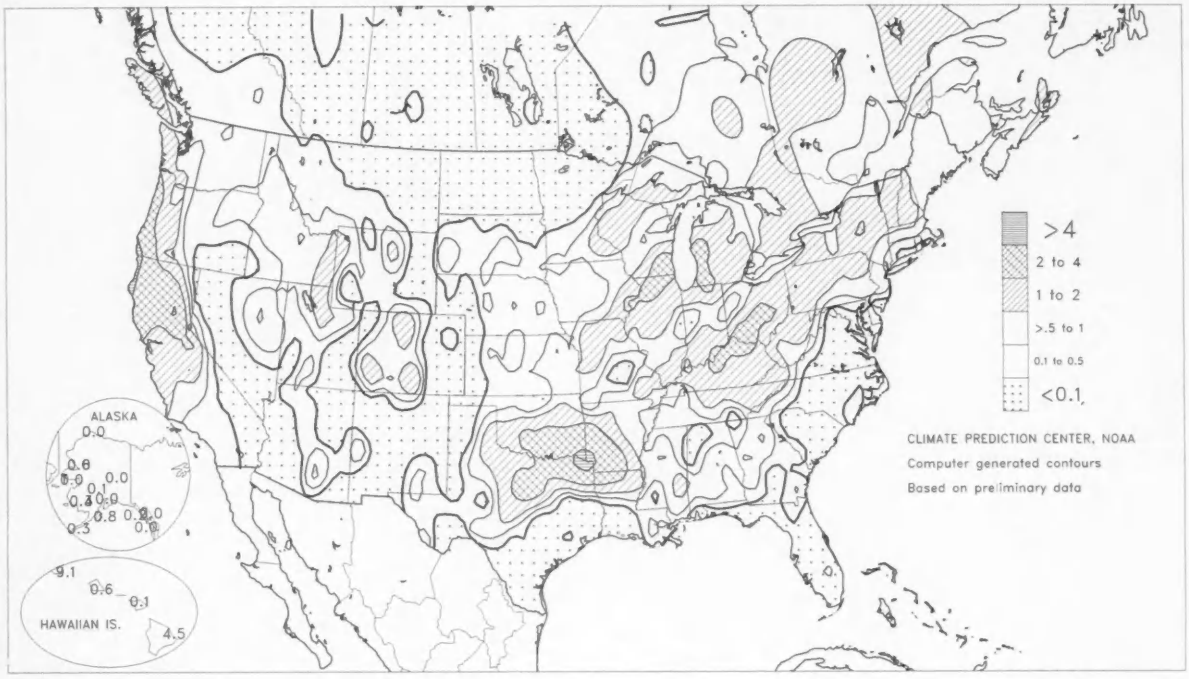
Chilly weather trailed the early-week storm across the **West**. On March 12, daily-record lows in **southern California** included 33°F in Thermal and 28°F in **Ojai**. A day later, **Southwestern** daily-record lows for March 13 dipped below 0°F in locations such as **Window Rock, AZ** (-7°F) and **Utah's Bryce Canyon** (-19°F). In contrast, record warmth prevailed prior to midweek across the **South** and **East**. Record highs for March 12 included 93°F in **Del Rio, TX**, 87°F in **Jackson, MS**, and 86°F in **Little Rock, AR**, followed the next day by records in **Eastern** locations such as **Norfolk, VA** (84°F), and **Elkins, WV** (82°F).

Late in the week, another major storm took aim on the **southern United States**. In **northeastern Texas**, March 17-19 rainfall topped 5 inches in several locations, including **Dallas' Love Field** (7.89 inches) and **Arlington** (7.27 inches). March 19 totals alone reached 6.90 inches at **Love Field** and 6.08 inches in **Arlington**. Farther east, **Texarkana, AR**, marked its first observance of at least 5 inches of rain in a 3-day period since December 15-17, 2001, when 5.00 inches fell. **Texarkana's** March 18-20 total reached 5.07 inches. Meanwhile in **Texas' northern panhandle**, **Amarillo's** March 18-20 precipitation of 1.25 inches exceeded its August 28 - March 17 (202-day) total of 1.10 inches. At week's end, heavy snow overspread the **northern and central Plains**. On March 18, **Great Falls, MT**, netted a daily-record snowfall of 4.2 inches en route to a 2-day total of 11.0 inches. Farther south, selected March 19 daily-record snowfall totals for the storm-in-progress included 10.0 inches in **Valentine, NE**, and 6.8 inches in **East Rapid City, SD.**

Periods of torrential rain continued across **Kauai**, where a dam holding back the **Kaloko Reservoir** burst on March 14, leaving seven people missing and presumed dead. On **Mt. Waialeale, Kauai**, rainfall totaled 114.38 inches for the 27-day period ending 8 a.m. HST on March 19. During the first 18 days of March, **Mt. Waialeale's** rainfall topped 70 inches, more than twice its monthly normal of 34.70 inches. Elsewhere on **Kauai**, **Lihue's** month-to-date rainfall through March 18 reached 25.01 inches (1,180 percent of normal), easily surpassing its previous record-high totals for March (14.54 inches in 1951) and any month (22.91 inches in December 1968). Elsewhere, March 1-18 rainfall at **Hawaii's** major observing stations varied significantly, ranging from 0.08 inch (6 percent of normal) in **Kahului, Maui**, to 20.60 inches (257 percent) in **Hilo**, on the **Big Island**. Farther north, very cold, mostly dry weather prevailed for much of the week in **Alaska**, although heavy snow arrived at week's end across the **southern part of the State**. Weekly temperatures generally ranged from 10 to 30°F below normal across **interior and eastern Alaska**. **Northway** collected four daily-record lows from March 12-16, including readings of -43°F on March 13 and 14. Farther south, **Juneau** closed the week with four consecutive daily-record lows (2, -2, -3, and 0°F) from March 15-18. Meanwhile in **Yakutat**, a daily-record snowfall (19.4 inches on March 19) followed consecutive daily-record lows (-2°F on both March 16 and 17).

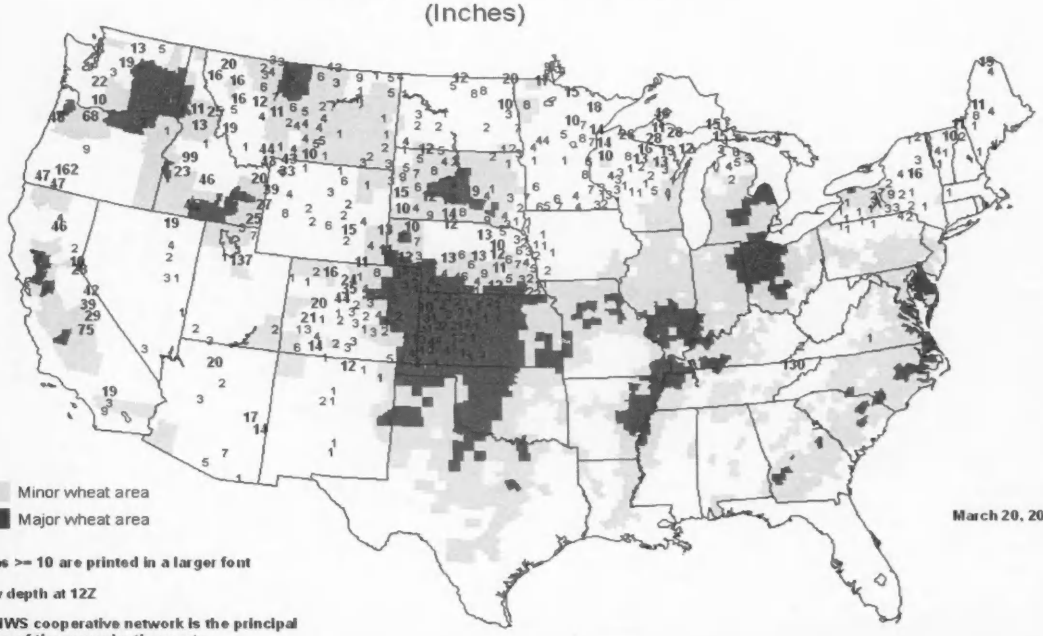
Total Precipitation (Inches)

MAR 12 - 18, 2006



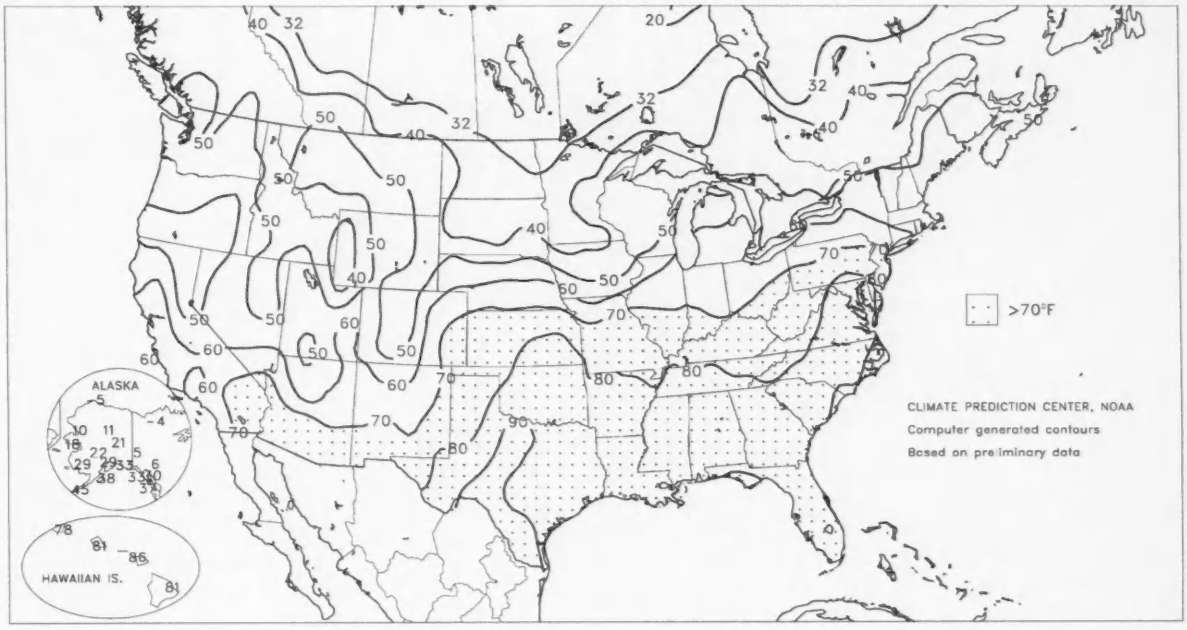
United States Snow Depth

(Inches)


Minor wheat area
Major wheat area
March 20, 2006
Values >= 10 are printed in a larger font
Snow depth at 12Z
The NWS cooperative network is the principal source of the snow depth reports
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

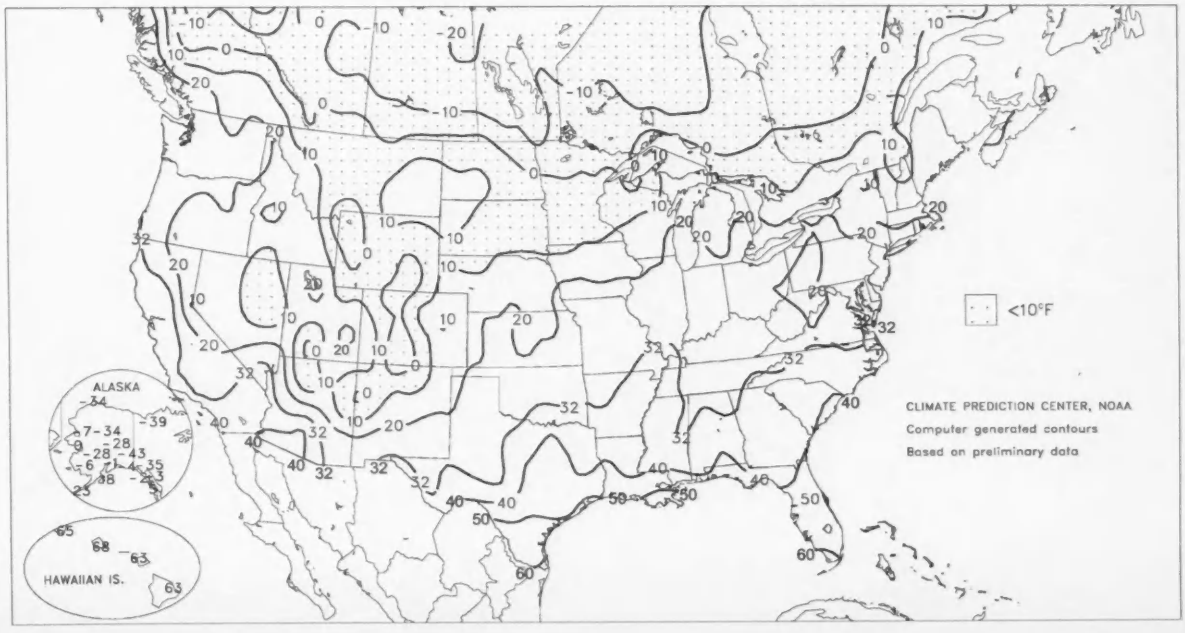
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

MAR 12 - 18, 2006



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

MAR 12 - 18, 2006



National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 18, 2006

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center (301-763-8000, Ext. 7503)

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS TEMP. °F		NUMBER OF DAYS PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL IN., SINCE MAR01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	70	47	85	35	59	5	0.74	-0.69	0.74	1.93	55	16.61	126	87	30	0	0	1	1
	HUNTSVILLE	68	46	81	32	57	5	0.13	-1.44	0.13	1.03	26	9.45	65	84	41	0	1	1	0
	MOBILE	74	53	82	41	64	4	0.03	-1.67	0.03	0.22	5	7.32	49	74	44	0	0	1	0
	MONTGOMERY	74	48	87	32	61	3	0.43	-1.05	0.21	1.53	40	11.21	78	83	32	0	1	6	0
AK	ANCHORAGE	26	10	29	-1	18	-8	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.23	59	1.31	72	51	34	0	7	0	0
	BARROW	-9	-20	-5	-34	-14	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	1200	0.61	254	78	75	0	7	0	0
	FAIRBANKS	14	-24	21	-28	-5	-15	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.12	86	1.10	104	63	42	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	17	3	30	-3	10	-23	0.00	-0.78	0.00	0.91	42	5.91	54	47	33	0	7	0	0
	KODIAK	35	28	38	18	32	0	0.76	-0.40	0.30	1.44	48	8.23	49	80	70	0	6	5	0
	NOME	16	6	18	0	11	2	0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.53	171	2.63	133	68	52	0	7	1	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	41	15	47	3	28	-8	0.21	-0.40	0.20	1.21	73	1.55	24	81	32	0	7	2	0
	PHOENIX	70	49	79	42	59	-3	0.06	-0.19	0.06	1.59	237	1.59	70	56	32	0	0	1	0
	TUCSON	70	43	79	32	56	-3	0.20	0.02	0.20	0.23	44	0.23	10	62	24	0	1	1	0
	YUMA	70	48	77	40	59	-7	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.22	157	0.22	28	58	37	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	69	44	84	34	57	5	1.06	0.15	0.67	2.97	133	6.70	93	81	33	0	0	2	1
	LITTLE ROCK	70	48	86	37	59	6	0.37	-0.72	0.30	1.18	45	7.00	73	73	29	0	0	2	0
CA	BAKERSFIELD	59	40	64	36	50	-7	0.51	0.18	0.24	1.55	182	2.60	80	87	59	0	0	4	0
	FRESNO	55	40	60	35	48	-7	0.73	0.22	0.33	1.90	139	5.84	103	89	72	0	0	5	0
	LOS ANGELES	59	45	62	40	52	-6	0.03	-0.53	0.02	0.56	35	4.01	52	77	56	0	0	2	0
	REDDING	53	40	60	33	47	-5	1.14	-0.06	0.49	5.34	167	16.94	112	86	73	0	0	5	0
	SACRAMENTO	57	41	61	38	49	-5	1.05	0.40	0.54	2.74	152	7.36	80	93	50	0	0	6	1
	SAN DIEGO	61	50	63	47	56	-4	0.33	-0.20	0.12	0.89	65	2.36	41	71	52	0	0	4	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	56	44	59	38	50	-4	1.08	0.33	0.68	3.90	188	8.65	82	87	70	0	0	5	1
	STOCKTON	58	41	63	38	50	-5	1.11	0.59	0.48	2.39	170	6.86	104	88	68	0	0	6	0
CO	ALAMOSA	48	10	58	-4	29	-4	0.02	-0.06	0.02	0.19	90	0.38	57	66	33	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	49	19	60	10	34	-3	0.07	-0.15	0.06	0.10	20	0.38	34	63	20	0	7	2	0
	DENVER INTL	48	20	62	13	34	-4	0.03	-0.18	0.03	0.36	69	0.79	81	69	34	0	7	1	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	50	28	61	18	39	-4	0.20	-0.02	0.19	0.82	152	1.25	76	69	49	0	5	2	0
	PUEBLO	57	20	68	11	38	-3	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.47	102	0.99	94	61	29	0	7	0	0
CT	BRIDGEPORT	49	34	64	25	42	3	0.22	-0.72	0.13	0.85	37	8.90	100	71	52	0	3	3	0
	HARTFORD	49	29	62	21	39	1	0.53	-0.34	0.46	0.79	37	9.28	104	74	49	0	5	3	0
DC	WASHINGTON	63	42	85	30	53	7	0.00	-0.84	0.00	0.03	1	5.74	72	62	29	0	1	0	0
DE	WILMINGTON	58	38	81	25	48	6	0.11	-0.80	0.09	0.28	12	6.81	80	66	33	0	1	2	0
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	78	56	86	46	67	2	0.00	-0.88	0.00	0.00	0	4.57	57	89	41	0	0	0	0
	JACKSONVILLE	78	50	85	37	64	3	0.11	-0.78	0.11	0.11	5	6.33	70	89	38	0	0	1	0
	KEY WEST	81	71	83	66	76	2	0.00	-0.40	0.00	0.00	0	0.94	20	79	59	0	0	0	0
	MIAMI	82	67	86	61	74	2	0.04	-0.49	0.04	0.04	3	3.83	73	83	51	0	0	1	0
	ORLANDO	82	58	86	52	70	3	0.00	-0.82	0.00	0.00	0	2.79	41	88	50	0	0	0	0
	PENSACOLA	75	56	83	44	65	4	0.02	-1.49	0.02	0.07	2	6.82	50	76	41	0	0	1	0
	TALLAHASSEE	79	49	83	35	64	3	0.09	-1.45	0.09	0.09	2	9.80	71	79	39	0	0	1	0
	TAMPA	80	61	84	55	71	4	0.00	-0.65	0.00	0.00	0	9.79	147	84	45	0	0	0	0
	WEST PALM BEACH	82	65	88	58	74	4	0.02	-0.81	0.02	0.02	1	4.43	54	82	49	0	0	1	0
GA	ATHENS	71	46	84	36	59	6	0.84	-0.31	0.42	1.24	41	9.10	75	74	36	0	0	2	0
	ATLANTA	68	47	80	37	58	4	1.68	0.42	0.84	2.01	62	12.61	97	72	43	0	0	2	2
	AUGUSTA	75	44	87	34	60	4	0.39	-0.67	0.39	0.42	15	6.78	60	84	42	0	0	1	0
	COLUMBUS	73	50	84	41	62	5	0.45	-0.89	0.21	3.46	101	10.89	86	80	28	0	0	3	0
	MACON	73	44	83	32	59	3	0.52	-0.60	0.26	1.33	45	7.17	57	84	29	0	1	2	0
	SAVANNAH	76	46	86	36	61	2	0.12	-0.69	0.12	0.12	6	6.97	79	81	38	0	0	1	0
HI	HILO	76	66	81	63	71	-1	4.48	1.19	1.55	18.89	242	38.78	147	90	82	0	0	7	3
	HONOLULU	79	71	81	68	75	1	0.61	0.19	0.28	2.75	231	6.90	110	86	80	0	0	5	0
	KAHULUI	84	67	86	63	75	2	0.08	-0.44	0.08	0.08	6	1.51	20	82	73	0	0	1	0
	LIHUE	77	69	78	65	73	0	9.14	8.33	4.43	15.58	753	26.10	263	88	82	0	0	5	4
ID	BOISE	48	30	54	21	39	-5	0.15	-0.15	0.04	0.81	105	2.97	90	84	56	0	5	5	0
	LEWISTON	51	32	59	26	42	-3	0.10	-0.14	0.08	0.34	58	1.71	64	81	60	0	3	2	0
	POCATELLO	41	26	49	16	34	-4	0.78	0.48	0.33	1.18	151	3.27	112	81	61	0	6	4	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	46	29	63	25	38	1	0.68	0.12	0.47	2.44	191	7.02	151	83	50	0	6	3	0
	MOLINE	48	27	59	22	38	0	1.84	1.21	1.78	3.18	219	6.97	154	77	47	0	5	4	1
	PEORIA	53	30	67	25	42	3	0.64	0.02	0.45	2.50	167	6.46	138	79	46	0	5	4	0
	ROCKFORD	44	27	57	21	35	-1	1.81	1.31	1.46	3.32	294	6.95	179	83	50	0	6	3	1
	SPRINGFIELD	57	33	70	26	45	4	2.22	1.51	2.18	4.02	234	6.67	130	77	58	0	4	3	1
IN	EVANSVILLE	60	39	73	28	50	4	2.94	1.98	2.61	8.86	369	15.14	180	78	51	0	2	2	1
	FORT WAYNE	49	31	68	22	40	2	0.22	-0.40	0.18	1.33	90	5.99	110	82	47	0	5	3	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	54	34	70	25	44	3	1.61	0.84	1.51	4.90	257	10.09	148	83	44	0	4	3	1
	SOUTH BEND	46	30	68	19	38	1	2.27	1.65	1.13	3.99	271	7.81	137	78	51	0	5	3	2
IA	BURLINGTON	54	30	64	23	42	2	1.28	0.62	1.21	2.94	188	5.96	135	79	37	0	4	4	1
	CEDAR RAPIDS	44	24	45	17	34	-2	0.20	-0.28	0.18	3.38	316	5.33	166	90	49	0	7	3	0
	DES MOINES	47	27	52	22	37	-1	0.37	-0.09	0.25	1.76	169	2.73	84	84	50	0	6	2	0
	DUBUQUE	41	24	47	18	33	-1	0.79	0.23	0.46	2.37	184	4.04	101	82	56	0	7	4	0
	SIOUX CITY	43	22	51	14	32	-4	0.40	-0.04	0.21	0.87	90	1.49	68	85	61	0	7	4	0
	WATERLOO	41	21	44	15	31	-4	0.60	0.15	0.28	1.93	189	2.83	97	90	54	0	7	4	0
KS	CONCORDIA	55	29	76	20	42	0	0.19	-0.36	0.17	0.27	21	0.36	14	83	51	0	5	3	0
	DODGE CITY	58	31	73	24	45	1	0.23	-0.18	0.23	0.30	32	0.47	21	63	27	0	4	1	0
	GOODLAND	52	25	74	18	39	0	0.07	-0.21	0.06	0.07	11	0.65	42	74	41	0	7	2	0
	TOPEKA	57	32	80	23	45	1	0.39	-0.18	0.31	1.13	84	1.63	47	75	52	0	4	2	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 18, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE MAR01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	60	35	82	24	48	3	0.41	-0.22	0.39	0.99	67	1.10	33	70	47	0	3	3	0
KY	JACKSON	62	41	78	30	51	4	1.37	0.37	1.05	2.44	93	9.86	100	77	36	0	1	4	1
	LEXINGTON	57	37	71	25	47	2	2.36	1.34	1.37	3.26	125	10.75	117	76	53	0	3	2	2
	LOUISVILLE	60	40	72	30	50	3	2.01	0.99	1.66	3.37	131	9.72	107	75	41	0	1	2	1
	PADUCAH	64	41	81	32	53	6	0.43	-0.51	0.30	4.12	170	13.12	134	81	35	0	1	2	0
LA	BATON ROUGE	76	57	87	42	66	6	0.23	-0.88	0.19	0.23	8	6.34	45	78	37	0	0	3	0
	LAKE CHARLES	75	59	81	43	67	6	0.01	-0.79	0.01	0.02	1	4.67	43	79	42	0	0	1	0
	NEW ORLEANS	74	62	82	54	68	6	0.21	-0.94	0.13	0.45	15	6.56	46	72	56	0	0	2	0
	SHREVEPORT	72	53	86	40	63	5	1.64	0.72	1.40	2.11	88	12.38	110	70	35	0	0	2	1
ME	CARIBOU	34	22	51	11	28	4	0.73	0.16	0.60	0.92	65	6.84	106	86	57	0	6	2	1
	PORTLAND	44	24	56	14	34	1	0.84	-0.09	0.47	1.00	44	7.45	79	81	44	0	6	3	0
MD	BALTIMORE	62	39	84	27	50	7	0.02	-0.89	0.02	0.18	8	6.30	72	61	35	0	2	1	0
MA	BOSTON	47	31	58	22	39	1	0.55	-0.31	0.33	0.55	26	7.76	83	72	42	0	4	2	0
	WORCESTER	44	29	56	17	36	2	0.47	-0.49	0.34	0.50	21	9.29	98	80	45	0	5	3	0
MI	ALPENA	38	24	51	16	31	3	0.99	0.51	0.49	1.97	174	6.58	155	84	43	0	6	3	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	45	28	67	20	37	3	1.39	0.83	0.71	3.06	243	9.75	202	82	51	0	6	2	2
	HOUGHTON LAKE	39	23	52	17	31	2	0.91	0.46	0.72	2.29	220	6.34	163	81	50	0	6	2	1
	LANSING	45	27	68	19	36	2	0.94	0.45	0.78	2.44	220	8.30	199	82	57	0	5	2	1
	MUSKEGON	42	29	60	20	36	2	3.45	2.94	2.17	5.31	446	11.10	222	78	55	0	6	2	2
	TRAVERSE CITY	40	26	56	21	33	3	0.52	0.11	0.43	1.29	139	4.37	77	82	42	0	6	2	0
MN	DULUTH	32	14	41	6	23	-2	0.12	-0.25	0.12	0.88	110	2.30	84	75	48	0	7	1	0
	INT'L FALLS	28	9	32	-1	18	-5	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.49	111	2.02	105	75	48	0	7	0	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	34	16	42	10	25	-7	1.22	0.81	0.78	1.45	163	2.48	91	82	58	0	7	4	1
	ROCHESTER	32	18	37	9	25	-5	0.83	0.44	0.51	1.61	192	2.34	92	81	63	0	7	4	1
	ST. CLOUD	35	15	45	8	25	-3	0.29	-0.02	0.15	0.80	123	1.35	68	83	46	0	7	4	0
MS	JACKSON	70	51	87	33	61	4	0.57	-0.71	0.38	1.80	57	15.56	117	84	38	0	0	3	0
	MERIDIAN	71	48	85	31	59	2	1.84	0.24	1.53	2.82	71	14.68	96	90	47	0	1	5	1
	TUPELO	70	47	83	33	58	5	0.00	-1.46	0.00	1.30	35	12.79	95	73	43	0	0	0	0
MO	COLUMBIA	59	35	78	27	47	3	0.17	-0.53	0.15	2.03	118	4.05	72	79	44	0	2	2	0
	KANSAS CITY	56	34	69	25	45	1	0.46	-0.09	0.44	1.02	77	2.17	57	77	42	0	2	3	0
	SAINT LOUIS	60	38	75	30	49	4	0.32	-0.49	0.23	2.27	115	4.36	68	70	45	0	2	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	62	36	81	26	49	3	0.50	-0.35	0.37	1.98	99	3.84	60	74	46	0	2	2	0
MT	BILLINGS	41	20	52	12	31	-6	0.20	-0.04	0.16	0.21	39	0.41	21	87	46	0	7	2	0
	BUTTE	37	17	45	9	27	-3	0.01	-0.17	0.01	0.10	23	0.74	52	83	40	0	7	1	0
	CUT BANK	41	14	53	3	28	-3	0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.01	4	0.22	24	83	29	0	7	1	0
	GLASGOW	36	19	47	10	28	-2	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.13	62	1.40	171	84	68	0	7	0	0
	GREAT FALLS	43	18	56	6	30	-3	0.32	0.10	0.31	0.46	90	1.61	95	82	29	0	7	2	0
	HAVRE	40	17	51	8	29	-3	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.10	28	0.78	66	87	71	0	7	0	0
	MISSOULA	45	24	56	18	34	-3	0.00	-0.21	0.00	0.90	173	2.51	107	74	51	0	7	0	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	45	27	64	21	36	-2	0.07	-0.39	0.04	0.50	48	0.75	33	84	62	0	6	2	0
	LINCOLN	48	26	66	17	37	-2	0.31	-0.19	0.16	0.92	83	1.90	78	83	58	0	6	4	0
	NORFOLK	44	25	62	16	35	-2	0.21	-0.23	0.12	1.21	122	1.73	75	82	64	0	7	5	0
	NORTH PLATTE	46	20	62	11	33	-5	0.09	-0.18	0.08	0.11	18	0.45	30	82	42	0	7	2	0
	OMAHA	48	28	62	20	38	-1	0.70	0.22	0.28	1.09	101	1.83	69	80	61	0	5	4	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	44	22	54	16	33	-4	0.08	-0.16	0.04	0.27	47	1.31	78	80	51	0	7	2	0
	VALENTINE	36	18	48	5	27	-8	0.22	-0.02	0.18	0.47	85	0.89	67	87	71	0	7	3	0
NV	ELY	39	14	45	-1	26	-10	0.73	0.49	0.57	1.35	229	3.02	145	81	59	0	7	5	1
	LAS VEGAS	62	44	68	38	53	-5	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.00	0	0.09	5	46	29	0	0	0	0
	RENO	44	27	52	19	35	-8	0.21	0.02	0.10	0.50	91	3.14	118	82	54	0	6	4	0
	WINNEMUCCA	43	22	51	12	33	-8	0.23	0.04	0.23	0.51	113	2.53	133	85	53	0	7	1	0
NH	CONCORD	42	24	55	17	33	0	1.18	0.50	0.70	1.31	78	7.51	107	77	46	0	6	3	1
NJ	NEWARK	53	38	62	30	46	4	0.29	-0.68	0.26	0.78	33	7.96	86	68	46	0	2	2	0
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	57	34	66	18	45	-3	0.10	-0.04	0.10	0.11	33	0.15	12	52	16	0	4	1	0
NY	ALBANY	46	28	58	20	37	3	0.95	0.26	0.74	1.14	69	6.91	109	77	51	0	6	3	1
	BINGHAMTON	42	29	58	17	36	4	0.81	0.17	0.70	1.40	88	5.94	89	79	55	0	5	3	1
	BUFFALO	44	31	63	22	37	3	1.15	0.49	0.95	1.95	120	8.07	112	81	52	0	5	3	1
	ROCHESTER	47	31	64	22	39	6	1.14	0.58	1.05	1.48	107	6.03	105	78	52	0	5	2	1
	SYRACUSE	45	30	64	21	38	5	0.98	0.31	0.90	1.55	97	6.17	98	82	53	0	5	5	1
NC	ASHEVILLE	64	40	78	33	52	6	0.08	-0.97	0.08	0.19	7	6.33	60	71	34	0	0	1	0
	CHARLOTTE	70	43	83	31	57	4	0.23	-0.79	0.23	0.33	13	4.73	47	74	27	0	1	1	0
	GREENSBORO	68	45	82	36	57	8	0.17	-0.71	0.16	0.34	15	4.28	48	72	27	0	0	2	0
	HATTERAS	61	50	68	35	56	4	0.00	-1.16	0.00	0.00	0	6.48	51	81	50	0	0	0	0
	RALEIGH	69	47	83	38	58	8	0.06	-0.88	0.06	0.19	8	3.91	39	68	37	0	0	1	0
	WILMINGTON	72	48	81	36	60	5	0.09	-0.89	0.09	0.32	13	5.55	52	83	27	0	0	1	0
ND	BISMARCK	34	19	41	12	26	-3	0.10	-0.07	0.05	0.33	85	0.71	53	80	57	0	7	3	0
	DICKINSON	33	16	39	10	25	-5	0.03	-0.08	0.02	0.06	27	0.52	51	92	50	0	7	2	0
	FARGO	26	8	34	3	17	-10	0.00	-0.26	0.00	0.33	56	1.16	60	82	65	0	7	0	0
	GRAND FORKS	22	-3	29	-8	9	-16	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.50	114	1.68	99	90	66	0	7	0	0
	JAMESTOWN	29	14	35	8	21	-6	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.15	36	0.36	23	87	60	0	7	0	0
	WILLISTON	34	15	41	6	25	-3	0.09	-0.07	0.06	0.15	42	0.59	46	85	63	0	7	3	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	47	30	67	19	38	1	1.70	1.00	1.22	1.94	111	7.40	113	80	56	0	5	3	1
	CINCINNATI	54	36	69	25	45	1	2.38	1.51	2.09	5.39	251	10.94	140	81	49	0	2	3	1
	CLEVELAND	46	33	66	23	39	2	0.67	0.03	0.34	1.23	78	5.95	94	78	54	0	5	3	0
	COLUMBUS	50	35	70	26	43	1	2.31	1.67	1.25	3.03	192	7.06	112	77	54	0	5	6	2
	DAYTON	50	33	67	24	42	2	1.55	0.83	1.31	3.04	177	7.67	116	81	51	0	5	3	1
	MANSFIELD	47	30	68	21	38	2	2.31	1.57	1.83	2.73	159	7.93	122	89	53	0	5	3	1

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Weather Data for the Week Ending March 18, 2006

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE MAR01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE MAR01	TOTAL, IN., SINCE JAN01	PCT. NORMAL SINCE JAN01	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	49	31	70	22	40	3	1.29	0.73	0.91	2.23	166	7.02	136	77	51	0	5	3	1
	YOUNGSTOWN	47	31	68	19	39	3	0.98	0.30	0.52	1.59	98	6.27	104	77	59	0	5	4	1
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	64	41	88	30	52	1	1.65	0.99	1.61	2.00	120	2.35	52	68	25	0	1	2	1
	TULSA	65	41	85	30	53	2	1.03	0.21	1.00	1.38	69	2.45	44	70	42	0	2	2	1
OR	ASTORIA	50	36	53	30	43	-3	1.15	-0.52	0.28	4.56	103	32.57	149	92	75	0	1	7	0
	BURNS	40	22	46	15	31	-6	0.27	-0.01	0.15	0.61	82	3.10	102	87	69	0	7	3	0
	EUGENE	50	35	52	28	43	-3	0.52	-0.80	0.26	2.28	65	17.98	103	90	73	0	2	5	0
	MEDFORD	50	32	54	26	41	-6	0.25	-0.16	0.17	1.30	116	8.36	147	91	52	0	3	2	0
	PENDLETON	51	32	55	25	42	-3	0.77	0.49	0.27	1.05	148	3.60	107	78	53	0	3	4	0
	PORTLAND	51	37	53	29	44	-3	0.73	-0.10	0.34	2.17	96	15.25	133	85	74	0	1	6	0
	SALEM	50	36	52	27	43	-4	0.61	-0.33	0.22	2.52	98	18.01	133	85	72	0	1	6	0
PA	ALLENTOWN	53	35	76	26	44	6	0.37	-0.44	0.28	0.72	36	8.32	101	66	45	0	3	2	0
	ERIE	43	32	65	26	38	2	1.11	0.43	0.97	1.70	102	6.67	103	75	64	0	5	2	1
	MIDDLETOWN	56	37	80	29	47	6	0.48	-0.26	0.43	0.68	36	7.29	95	73	35	0	1	3	0
	PHILADELPHIA	57	39	79	31	48	5	0.50	-0.37	0.48	0.69	32	6.54	78	61	44	0	1	2	0
	PITTSBURGH	51	33	72	19	42	3	1.46	0.74	1.01	1.83	103	7.31	107	80	45	0	5	2	1
	WILKES-BARRE	50	33	74	21	41	3	0.76	0.17	0.63	1.24	87	6.72	113	77	40	0	5	2	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	52	35	72	23	43	6	0.61	-0.09	0.41	1.14	66	8.27	115	69	46	0	4	3	0
RI	PROVIDENCE	50	31	61	22	41	3	0.23	-0.76	0.13	0.57	24	8.43	82	70	44	0	4	3	0
SC	BEAUFORT	74	50	81	40	62	5	0.02	-0.80	0.02	0.02	1	5.82	63	87	32	0	0	1	0
	CHARLESTON	75	48	82	37	61	3	0.07	-0.86	0.07	0.08	4	6.31	67	78	29	0	0	1	0
	COLUMBIA	74	46	85	34	60	5	0.00	-1.05	0.00	0.00	0	6.12	55	76	30	0	0	0	0
	GREENVILLE	70	45	82	31	57	6	0.00	-1.25	0.00	0.14	4	5.20	44	70	27	0	1	0	0
SD	ABERDEEN	33	17	38	8	25	-5	0.01	-0.28	0.01	0.45	71	1.00	63	80	67	0	7	1	0
	HURON	35	16	41	5	26	-6	0.69	0.33	0.49	0.90	113	1.33	72	89	56	0	7	3	0
	RAPID CITY	32	16	37	8	24	-10	0.50	0.29	0.41	0.58	121	0.94	72	89	65	0	7	5	0
	SIOUX FALLS	34	14	37	4	24	-8	0.76	0.37	0.51	0.88	106	1.79	97	84	70	0	7	4	1
TN	BRISTOL	63	38	77	29	51	5	1.00	0.10	0.87	1.31	56	7.19	78	86	32	0	2	3	1
	CHATTANOOGA	69	45	81	31	57	6	0.04	-1.41	0.04	0.54	15	7.78	56	76	37	0	1	1	0
	KNOXVILLE	67	44	80	32	56	7	1.03	-0.17	0.95	1.49	49	8.04	69	76	34	0	1	3	1
	MEMPHIS	68	49	84	39	58	5	0.09	-1.16	0.09	1.67	54	12.61	108	69	37	0	0	1	0
	NASHVILLE	66	45	83	32	55	5	0.43	-0.70	0.43	1.41	49	10.67	101	73	33	0	1	1	0
TX	ABILENE	69	47	90	34	58	2	1.74	1.44	1.60	1.74	223	3.44	119	60	28	1	0	3	1
	AMARILLO	56	31	69	25	44	-4	0.18	-0.06	0.18	0.46	81	0.55	31	54	29	0	3	1	0
	AUSTIN	77	55	89	38	66	5	0.13	-0.35	0.11	0.15	11	3.01	58	57	39	0	0	3	0
	BEAUMONT	76	61	82	50	69	7	0.01	-0.83	0.01	0.11	5	3.80	34	80	41	0	0	1	0
	BROWNSVILLE	84	69	89	65	77	8	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.00	0	0.84	28	87	60	0	0	0	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	82	67	87	56	74	8	0.00	-0.37	0.00	0.00	0	0.32	7	82	54	0	0	0	0
	DEL RIO	81	56	93	42	69	5	0.01	-0.18	0.01	0.01	2	0.30	15	64	45	1	0	1	0
	EL PASO	71	45	79	35	58	1	0.00	-0.04	0.00	0.00	0	0.30	30	28	14	0	0	0	0
	FORT WORTH	71	51	89	40	61	4	0.93	0.24	0.69	0.93	50	7.03	115	68	29	0	0	3	1
	GALVESTON	76	64	81	58	70	6	0.01	-0.61	0.01	0.02	1	1.26	15	86	52	0	0	1	0
	HOUSTON	77	59	84	42	68	6	0.03	-0.71	0.02	0.04	2	4.00	47	79	52	0	0	2	0
	LUBBOCK	62	37	76	26	50	-1	0.34	0.20	0.34	0.34	92	0.52	33	40	25	0	1	1	0
	MIDLAND	68	41	83	26	54	-2	0.50	0.42	0.50	0.50	192	1.48	108	55	23	0	1	1	1
	SAN ANGELO	73	45	92	28	59	2	0.14	-0.06	0.11	0.14	24	0.99	39	59	26	1	1	2	0
	SAN ANTONIO	79	59	88	49	69	7	0.02	-0.39	0.01	0.02	2	0.99	22	76	36	0	0	2	0
	VICTORIA	81	59	85	44	70	6	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.01	1	2.12	37	88	61	0	0	0	0
	WACO	73	51	86	40	62	4	0.09	-0.45	0.06	0.26	17	4.12	71	65	35	0	0	2	0
	WICHITA FALLS	69	44	93	32	56	2	1.63	1.13	1.53	1.88	148	2.68	68	67	35	1	1	2	1
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	47	30	54	25	39	-4	0.90	0.48	0.41	1.61	153	4.19	112	84	51	0	5	7	0
VT	BURLINGTON	39	24	56	17	32	2	0.67	0.16	0.50	1.02	85	6.36	125	82	50	0	7	5	1
VA	LYNCHBURG	66	41	83	27	53	7	0.04	-0.84	0.04	0.14	6	5.36	60	60	24	0	1	1	0
	NORFOLK	66	46	84	37	56	7	0.00	-0.94	0.00	0.17	7	3.50	36	76	33	0	0	0	0
	RICHMOND	68	42	86	33	55	8	0.00	-0.95	0.00	0.00	0	4.36	49	60	26	0	0	0	0
	ROANOKE	65	43	83	32	54	7	0.02	-0.86	0.02	0.08	4	5.20	61	54	27	0	1	1	0
	WASH/DULLES	62	39	85	26	51	8	0.03	-0.77	0.01	0.04	2	4.82	61	56	37	0	1	3	0
WA	OLYMPIA	51	33	54	24	42	-1	0.70	-0.49	0.19	2.57	81	21.88	129	92	74	0	3	4	0
	QUILLAYUTE	48	34	52	24	41	-3	2.15	-0.35	0.81	5.87	86	36.26	111	93	76	0	3	6	2
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	50	36	54	31	43	-3	0.74	-0.10	0.46	1.36	61	15.56	135	94	79	0	1	6	0
	SPOKANE	43	28	48	22	35	-4	0.39	0.06	0.16	0.71	79	6.38	151	88	57	0	6	4	0
	YAKIMA	51	26	53	20	39	-3	0.18	0.04	0.14	0.32	86	2.77	118	87	58	0	6	2	0
WV	BECKLEY	57	37	75	21	47	5	0.67	-0.16	0.52	0.94	44	5.06	61	72	41	0	4	3	1
	CHARLESTON	61	39	81	25	50	5	0.52	-0.38	0.37	0.96	42	6.01	69	71	33	0	1	2	0
	ELKINS	56	31	82	18	44	4	0.62	-0.27	0.37	0.96	42	5.30	59	84	33	0	4	4	0
	HUNTINGTON	60	39	80	25	50	4	1.82	0.94	1.01	2.65	117	7.40	86	74	37	0	2	3	2
WI	EAU CLAIRE	35	15	45	4	25	-5	1.82	1.43	1.26	2.33	281	3.87	145	88	47	0	7	4	1
	GREEN BAY	39	24	47	20	32	1	0.31	-0.13	0.17	1.03	104	4.01	125	78	51	0	7	2	0
	LA CROSSE	38	20	46	15	29	-5	0.66	0.25	0.38	1.41	162	2.59	85	84	47	0	7	4	0
	MADISON	40	23	49	17	32	-1	0.84	0.36	0.37	2.05	193	4.82	134	83	52	0	7	3	0
	MILWAUKEE	43	28	57	23	36	2	1.80	1.26	1.05	3.47	284	7.30	155	79	52	0	6	3	2
WY	CASPER	40	18	54	-2	29	-6	0.29	0.10	0.21	0.69	141	2.08	122	80	59	0	7	2	0
	CHEYENNE	39	17	47	3	28	-6	0.19	-0.03	0.17	0.37	71	0.93	66	69	54	0	7	2	0
	LANDER	41	18	52	4	30	-5	0.15	-0.11	0.15	0.15	25	1.18	72	71	42	0	7	1	0
	SHERIDAN	43	17	52	10	30	-5	0.31	0.11	0.17	0.42	91	0.94	52	81	52	0	7	4	0

Based on 1971-2000 normals

*** Not Available

National Agricultural Summary

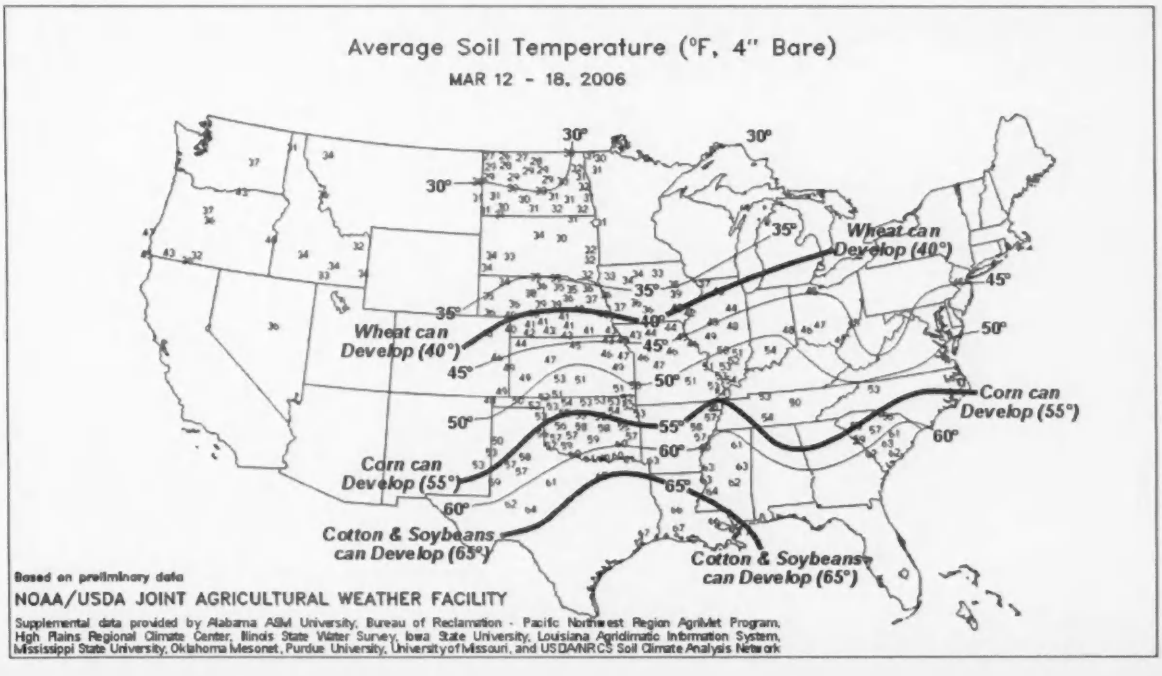
March 13 - 19, 2006

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Moderate rainfall in the southern Great Plains improved soil moisture in most of the region but largely missed the Panhandle area of Texas and Oklahoma until March 19. Light precipitation overspread most of the remainder of the Great Plains, including some snow in South Dakota and Nebraska. Meanwhile, across the much of the Corn Belt, light to moderate precipitation continued to boost soil moisture levels. Mostly dry conditions across the Mississippi Delta and Southeast were favorable for planting, but soil moisture shortages were a problem along the southern Atlantic Coast. Snowfall in the Rocky Mountains increased snowpacks, boding well for springtime moisture reserves. Precipitation was moderate in coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest but light in the crop-producing areas further inland. Mostly dry conditions returned to the Southwest, following the previous week's rainfall. Temperatures were above normal across the southern Great Plains, Delta, Southeast, Atlantic Coast, and most of the Corn Belt, while below-normal temperatures prevailed in the northwestern Corn Belt, northern Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Coast States.

Wet weather in California delayed fieldwork, and some recently-planted fields were damaged by flooding. Arizona growers, under mostly dry conditions, harvested a variety of vegetable and citrus crops. In Texas, winter wheat conditions improved in some areas due to beneficial rainfall, but most of the crop was still rated as very poor. Planting was underway for most summer crops, with the State's corn acreage 42 percent planted. Warm weather in Georgia improved pastures across the State, but most areas needed moisture. In Florida, fieldwork progressed on schedule, but dry conditions were less than favorable.


Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)
MAR 12 - 18, 2006
Wheat can Develop (40°)
Wheat can Develop (40°)
Corn can Develop (55°)
Corn can Develop (55°)
Cotton & Soybeans can Develop (65°)
Cotton & Soybeans can Develop (65°)
Based on preliminary data
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Supplemental data provided by Alabama A&M University, Bureau of Reclamation - Pacific Northwest Region AgriMet Program, High Plains Regional Climate Center, Illinois State Water Survey, Iowa State University, Louisiana Agroclimatic Information System, Mississippi State University, Oklahoma Mesonet, Purdue University, University of Missouri, and USDA/NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network

International Weather and Crop Summary

March 12 - 18, 2006

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

HIGHLIGHTS

FSU-WESTERN: A moderate to deep snow cover persisted as far south as central Ukraine, while warmer weather and a lack of snow cover likely prompted some early spring fieldwork in southernmost areas in Ukraine and the Southern District in Russia.

EUROPE: Unseasonably cold, dry weather persisted across much of the continent, while heavy rain and snow caused flooding in the Balkans.

EASTERN ASIA: Mild weather continued on the North China Plain favoring winter wheat development.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Heavy rainfall resumed flooding in Indonesia, especially in oil palm areas of Sumatra.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Showers in Morocco contrasted with warm, dry weather in Algeria.

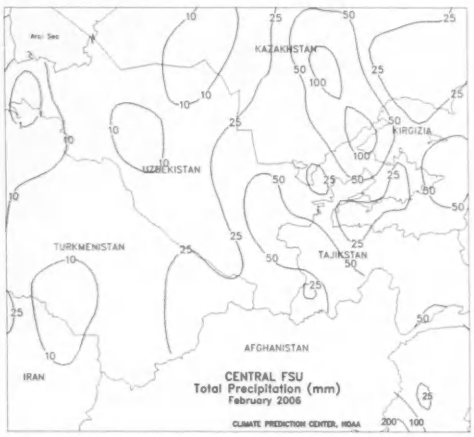
SOUTH AFRICA: Mild, showery weather kept immature corn and other summer crops well watered.

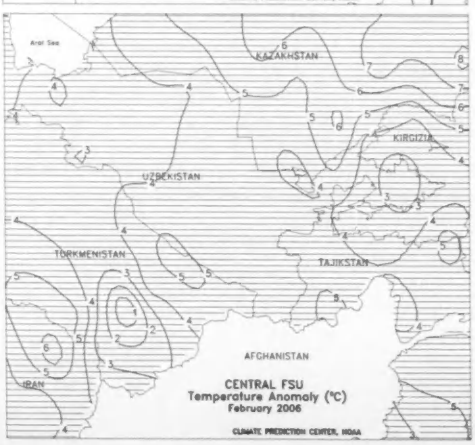
AUSTRALIA: For the second consecutive week, mostly dry, warm weather favored summer crop maturation and harvesting.

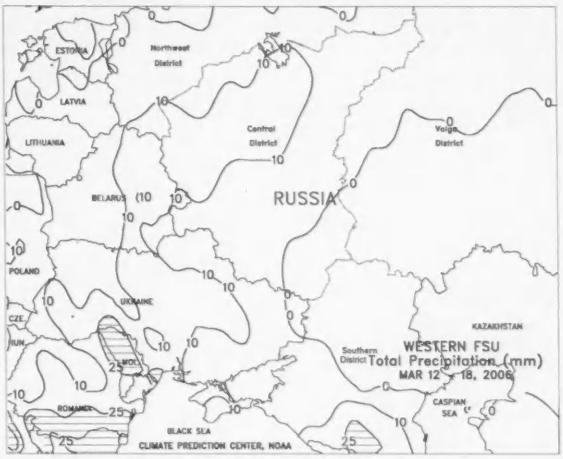
MIDDLE EAST: Above-normal temperatures promoted winter grain development, while persistent wetness in western Turkey slowed fieldwork.

BRAZIL: Warmth and dryness hastened maturation of soybeans and corn in the south.

ARGENTINA: Soaking rain covered most major agricultural areas, boosting moisture for immature summer crops but hindering fieldwork.



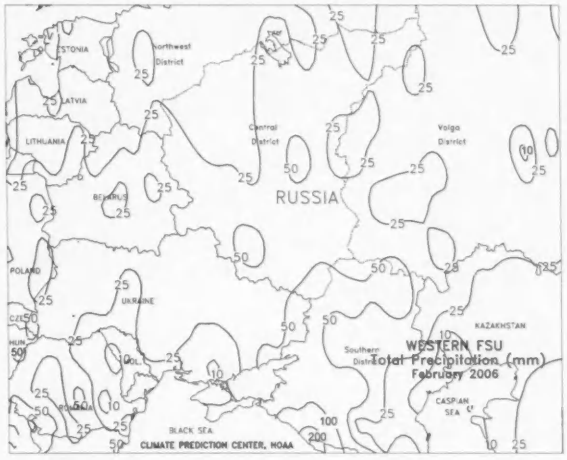


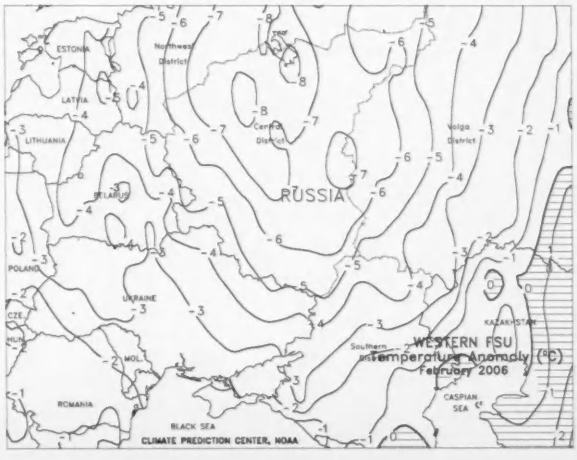


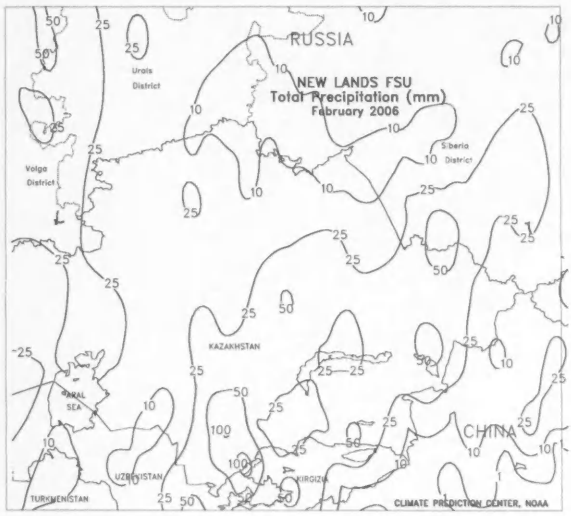
FSU-WESTERN

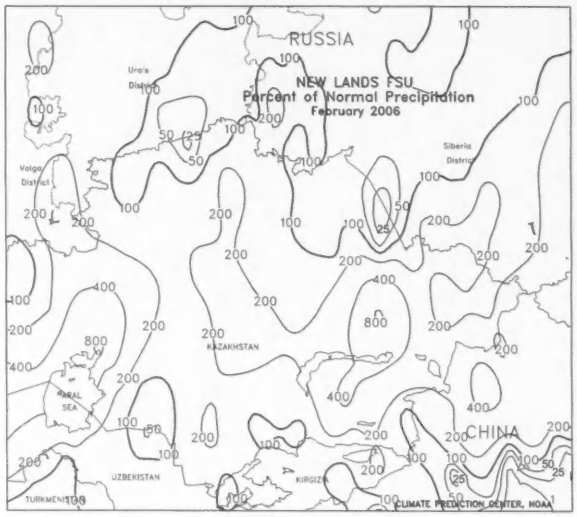
Temperatures gradually increased across most of the region during the week. In extreme southern Ukraine and the southern half of the Southern District in Russia, mild weather (extreme maximum temperatures ranging from 10 to 20 degrees C) along with a lack of snow cover likely prompted some early spring fieldwork. Weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal in the eastern half of Ukraine and most of Russia and 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in western Ukraine and western Belarus. Winter grains remained dormant throughout most areas. At week's end, a moderate to deep snow cover extended as far south as central Ukraine and the northern portion of the Southern District in Russia. Rain (5-25 mm or more) fell in southernmost areas, while heavy snow (10-25 mm of liquid equivalent) fell from Belarus eastward across the northern portion of the Central District.

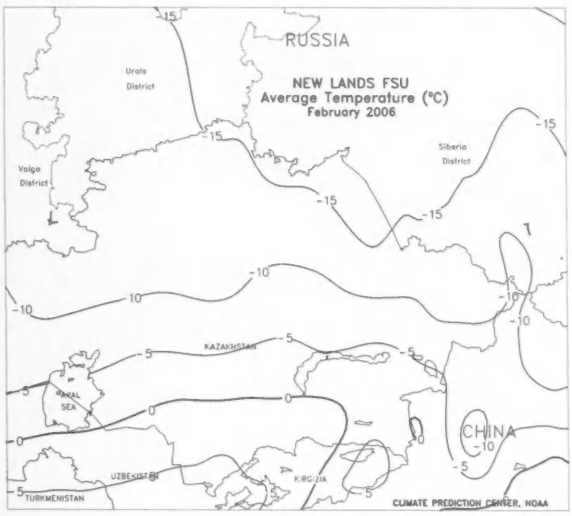
In February, near- to above-normal precipitation was observed in most areas, with more than twice the normal amount of precipitation recorded in the Southern District in Russia. Unseasonably cold weather persisted over winter grain areas in Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus during the first half of the month. However, widespread snow boosted the protective snow cover in these areas, minimizing the threat for widespread freeze damage. Lowest temperatures ranged from -37 to -19 degrees C as far south as southern Ukraine and the southern portion of the Southern District in Russia. On about February 18, a westerly flow of air from Europe brought milder weather and widespread precipitation to most winter grain areas. In southern Ukraine and the southern portion of the Southern District in Russia, maximum temperatures rose above 10 degrees C, causing considerable melting of the protective snow cover. Temperatures in February averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal in most of Ukraine, Belarus, and the Southern District in Russia, and 4 to 8 degrees C below normal in the remainder of Russia

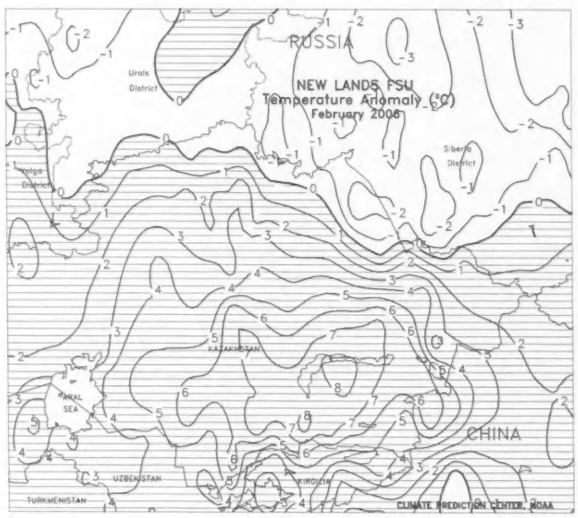





RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Total Precipitation (mm)
February 2006
Urals District
Volga District
Siberia District
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 2006
Urals District
Volga District
Siberia District
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

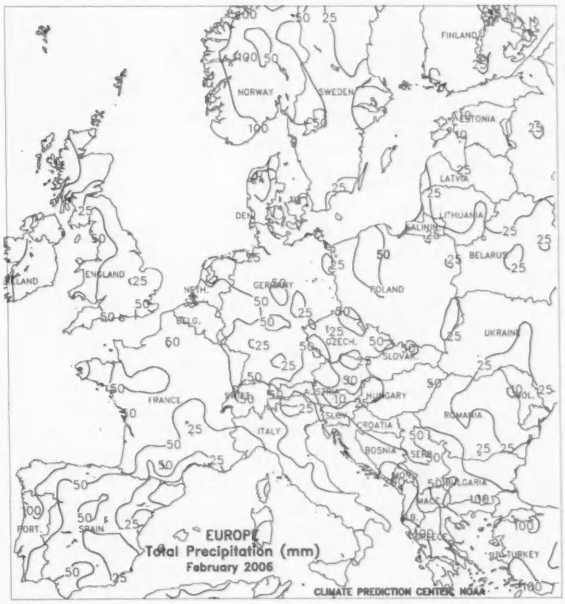

RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Average Temperature (°C)
February 2006
Urals District
Volga District
Siberia District
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


RUSSIA
NEW LANDS FSU
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
February 2006
Urals District
Volga District
Siberia District
KAZAKHSTAN
ARAL SEA
UZBEKISTAN
KIRGIZIA
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

EUROPE

Unseasonably cold, dry weather persisted across much of the continent, while heavy rain caused flooding in the Balkans. A strong area of high pressure over northern Europe maintained dry, cold conditions (3-8 degrees C below normal) from the Baltics and Poland westward into France and England. However, a weak disturbance brought light to moderate snow (5-20 mm of liquid equivalent) to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, southern Poland, and northern Hungary. Extreme cold (-17 to -8 degrees C) across much of central and eastern Europe coupled with a widespread late-season snowpack kept winter grains dormant, while sub-freezing nighttime lows (-6 to -2 degrees C) in northern France and southeastern England slowed crop development. In the Balkans, locally heavy rain (20-90 mm of liquid equivalent) caused flooding and halted fieldwork. Farther west, light to moderate showers (4-40 mm) on the Iberian Peninsula provided moisture for vegetative to heading winter grains. However, more rain is needed in Spain and Portugal to recharge reservoirs and groundwater supplies after last year's record-setting drought. Elsewhere, scattered light to moderate showers (5-40 mm) in central and southern Italy slowed fieldwork but increased moisture reserves for summer crops, while dry weather in northern Italy promoted fieldwork.

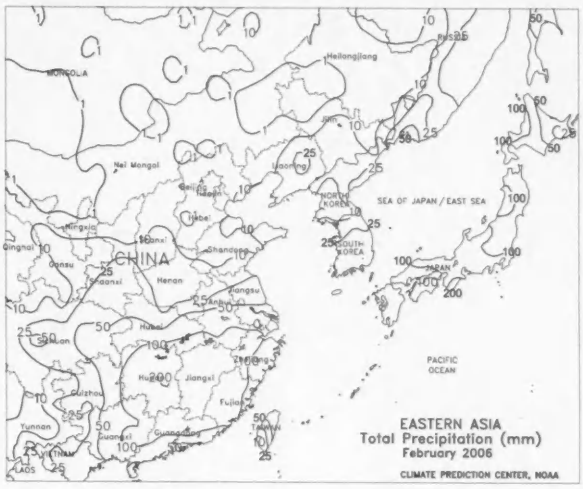
In February, below-normal temperatures kept winter grains dormant in central and eastern Europe while slowing crop development in France, England, and the Iberian Peninsula. Above-normal precipitation across much of the continent improved prospects for dormant to vegetative winter grains, although pockets of dryness in northern and southwestern Germany reduced topsoil moisture.

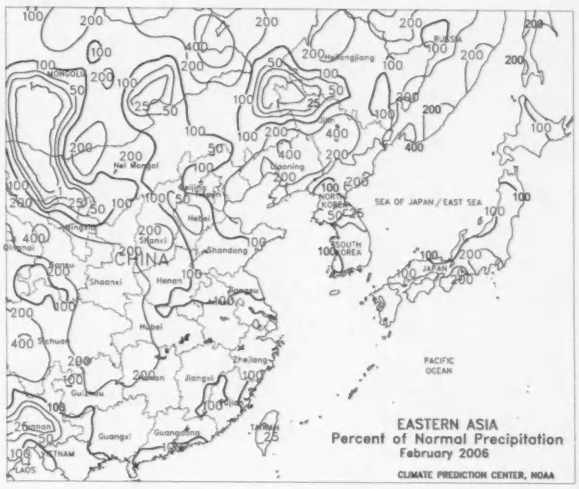


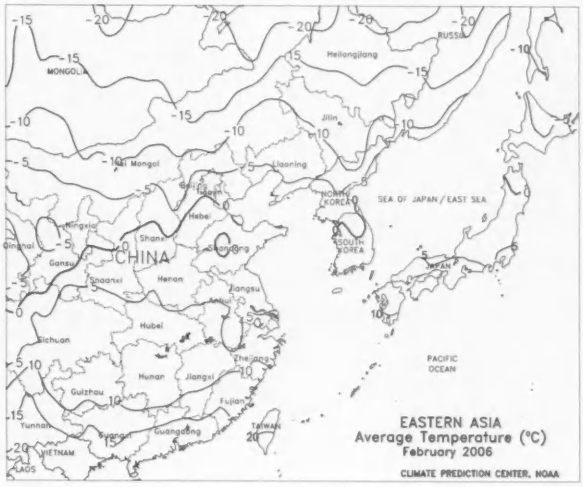
EASTERN ASIA

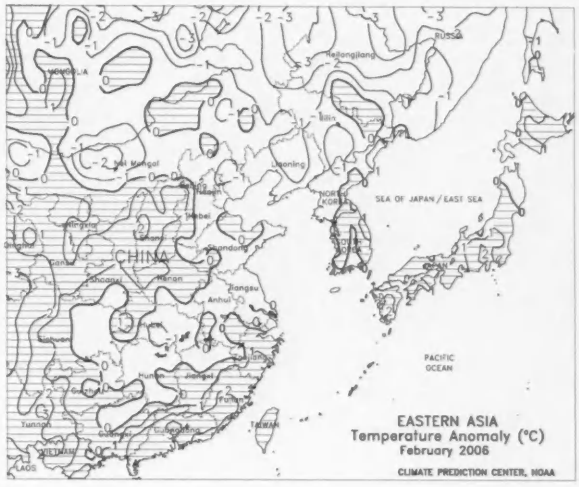
Mild weather on the North China Plain favored winter wheat development, although more rain would be welcomed. In the Yangtze Valley, mild weather and light showers (1-10 mm) favored vegetative winter rapeseed. Farther south, moderate showers (10-25 mm) maintained moisture supplies for vegetative early double-crop rice. The average date of the last freeze is March 1 for east-central China. However, minimum temperatures have consistently been at or below freezing for the past 3 weeks which has resulted in slower crop development.

In February, temperatures were near normal, but warmer weather by the end of the month allowed winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy. Near-normal rainfall maintained moisture supplies for winter rapeseed in the Yangtze Valley. In southern China, normal- to above-normal rainfall provided beneficial moisture for early rice planting.


EASTERN ASIA
Total Precipitation (mm)
February 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN

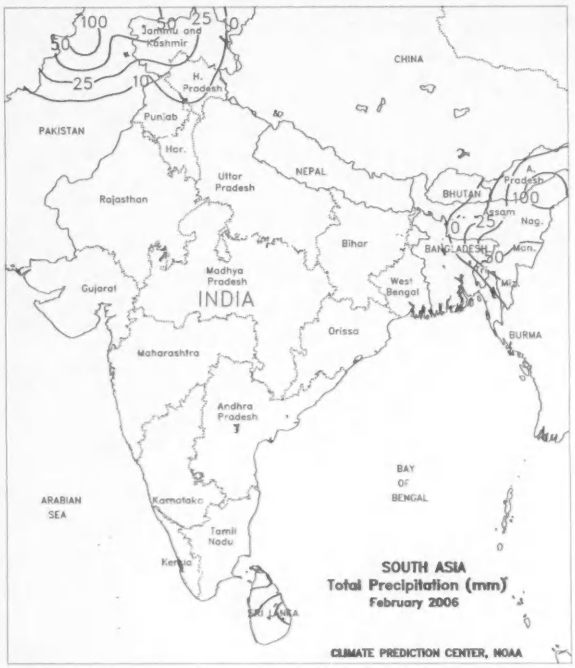

EASTERN ASIA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN

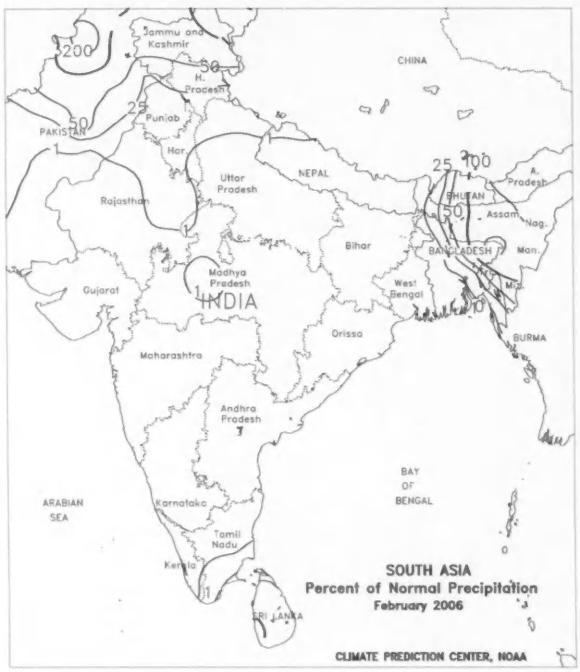

EASTERN ASIA
Average Temperature (°C)
February 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN

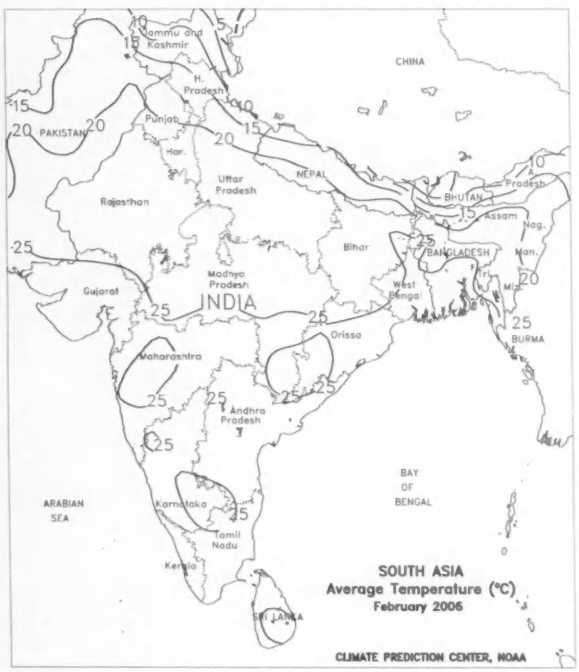

EASTERN ASIA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
February 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA
CHINA
MONGOLIA
RUSSIA
SEA OF JAPAN / EAST SEA
PACIFIC OCEAN

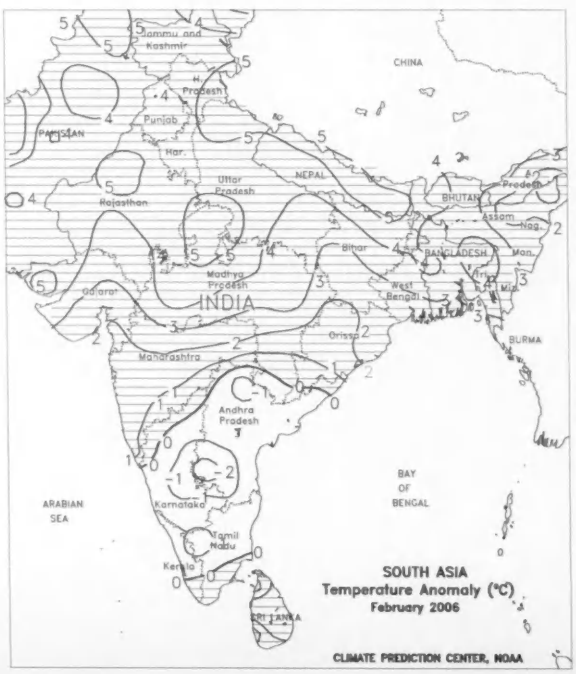
SOUTH ASIA

In February, drier-than-normal conditions coupled with above-normal temperatures stressed heading to filling winter grains across northern India. In early March, an unseasonably strong storm system brought much-needed moisture to winter grains and oilseeds, although pockets of hail and wind damage were reported. Farther west, above-normal temperatures coupled with near- to above-normal rainfall in northern Pakistan improved prospects for heading winter grains.





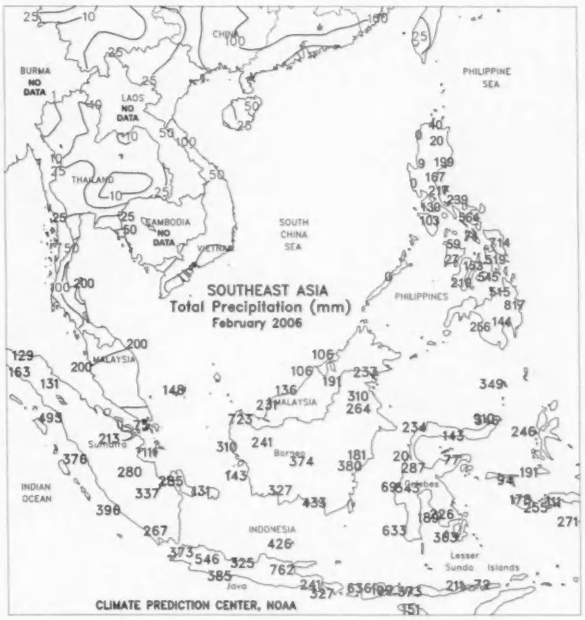


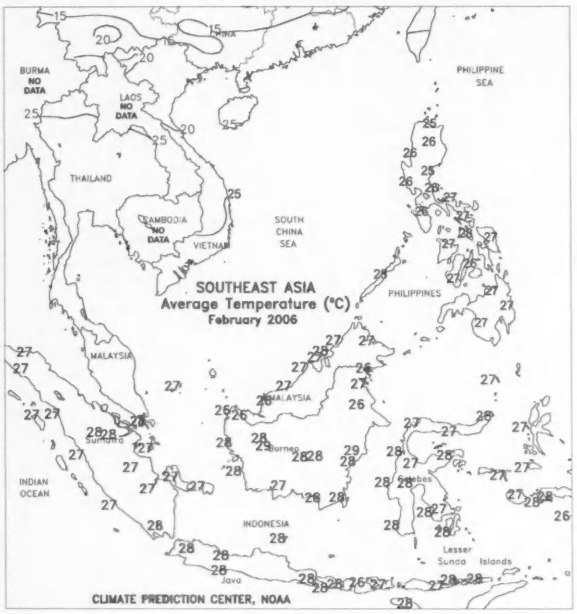


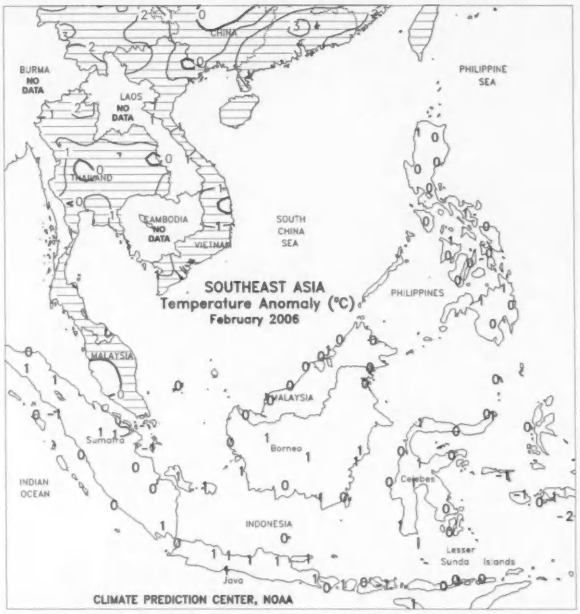
SOUTHEAST ASIA

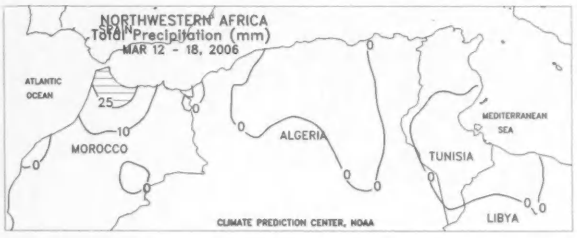
Heavy monsoon showers resumed throughout Indonesia, causing more flooding in oil palm areas of Sumatra and slowing rice ripening in Java. Warm, sunny weather would be more beneficial to rice in the ripening stage of development. Generally seasonable rainfall prevailed in the Philippines, while scattered showers occurred in Indochina.

In February, Indonesian rainfall was near to above normal, increasing moisture supplies for rice in Java and oil palm in Sumatra. However, by month's end, heavy monsoon showers caused flooding and were unfavorable for rice reproduction and oil palm harvesting. Heavy rainfall caused flooding in the eastern and southern Philippines, with local crop damage likely in Mindanao. Unseasonably heavy showers fell in Indochina, increasing irrigation supplies for winter rice.





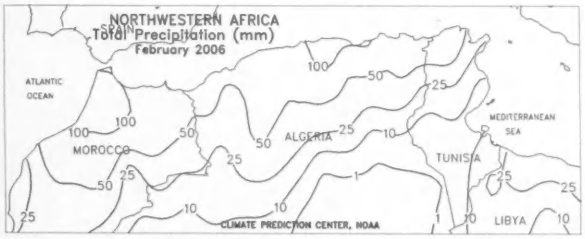


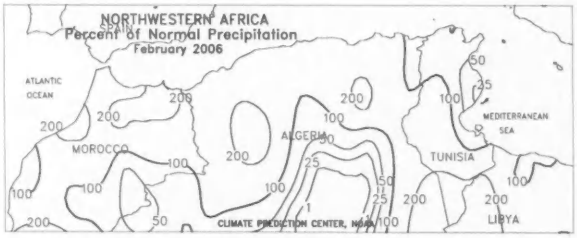


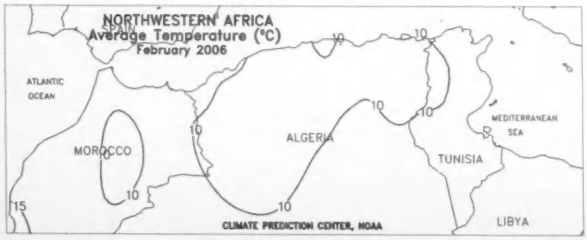
NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

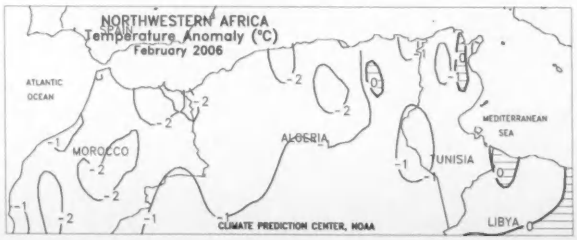
Unsettled weather in Morocco contrasted with warm, dry conditions in Algeria. An upper air disturbance triggered scattered light to moderate showers (2-40 mm) in Morocco, maintaining adequate to abundant moisture supplies for heading winter grains. Farther east, dry, warm conditions (2-4 degrees C above normal) in Algeria promoted winter grain development after several weeks of below-normal temperatures. In northern Tunisia, however, below-normal temperatures along with scattered light showers (3-5 mm) lingered in the wake of a Mediterranean storm, maintaining topsoil moisture but slowing crop development.

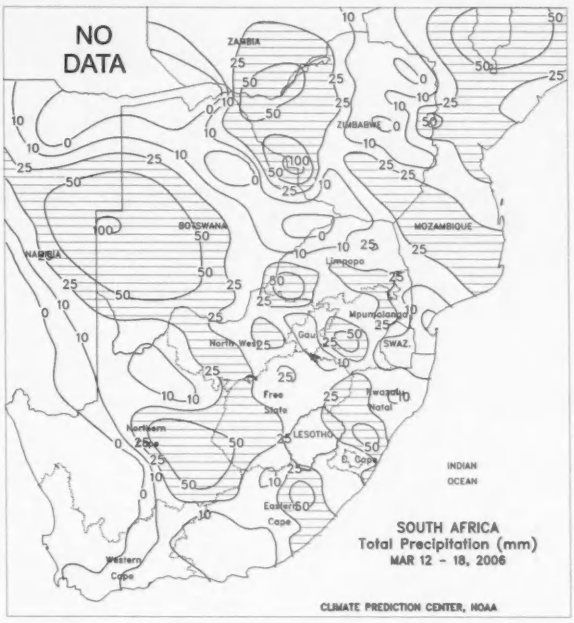
In February, above-normal precipitation provided favorable growing conditions for vegetative winter grains, although below-normal temperatures kept winter grain development slightly behind the long-term average.







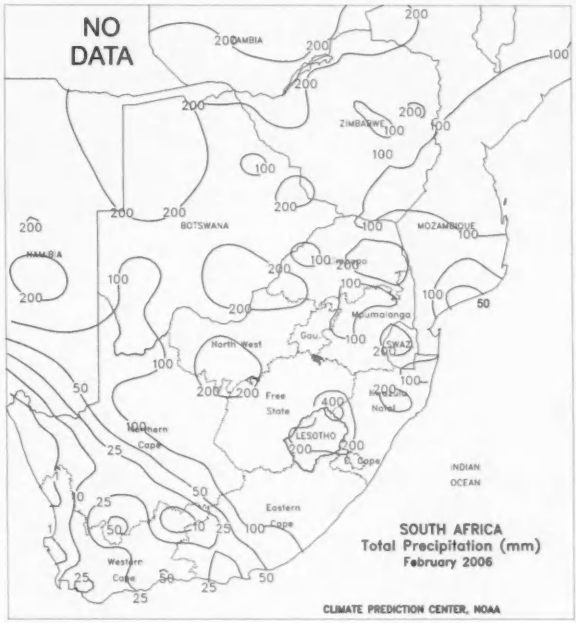


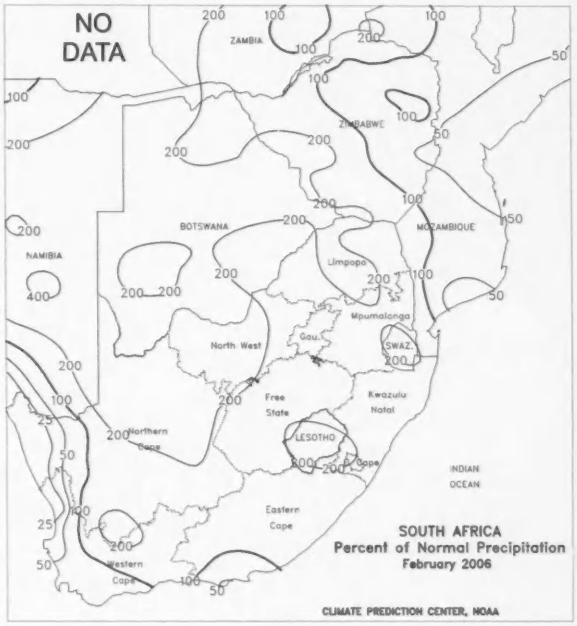


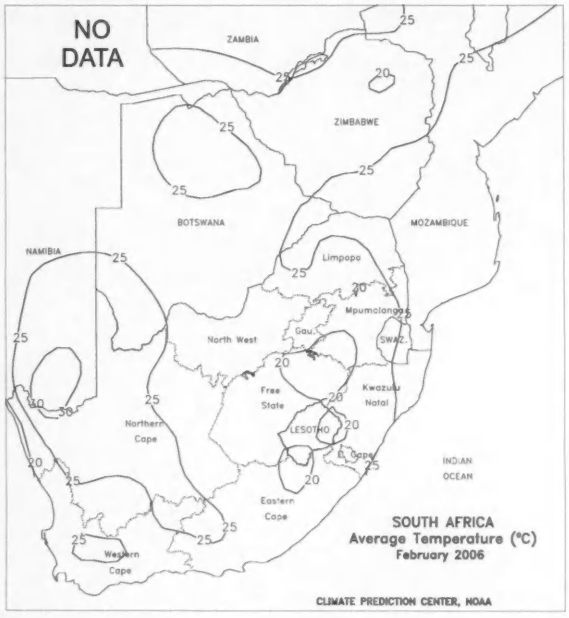
SOUTH AFRICA

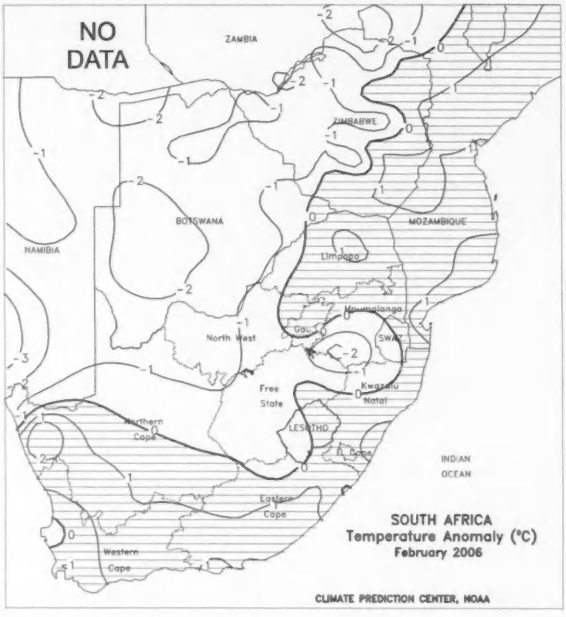
Scattered showers (5-25 mm, locally exceeding 50 mm) swept across the country's main agricultural areas, maintaining mostly favorable moisture reserves for corn and other immature summer crops. Near- to below-normal temperatures (highs in the middle and upper 20s degrees C) kept crop moisture demands and growth rates at lower than usual levels, and late-planted crops in the western corn belt lag the normal pace of development. Warm, sunny weather would be welcome for maturation of corn and other summer crops.

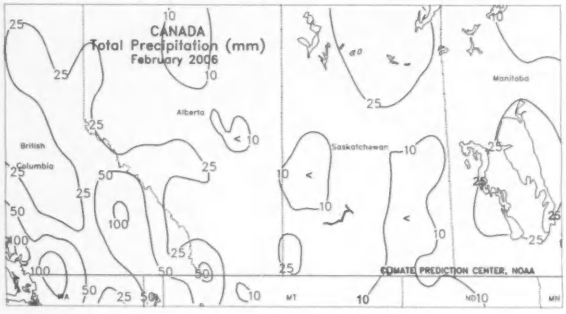
During February, mild, showery weather maintained overall favorable conditions for corn and other summer crops in reproductive and filling stages of development. However, consistently below-normal temperatures fostered lower than usual rates of crop development. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C below normal in Western Cape, but highs reached the middle 30s degrees C away from the coast, increasing moisture demands of crops and livestock.

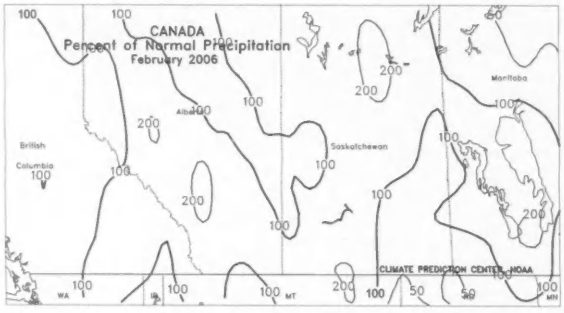


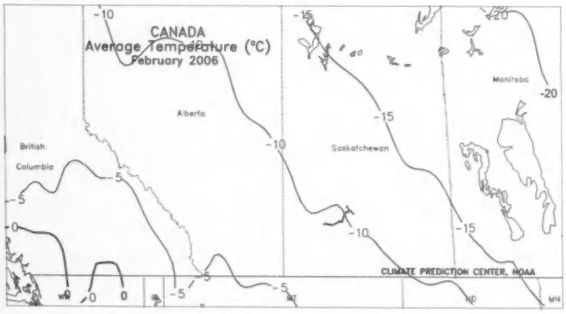


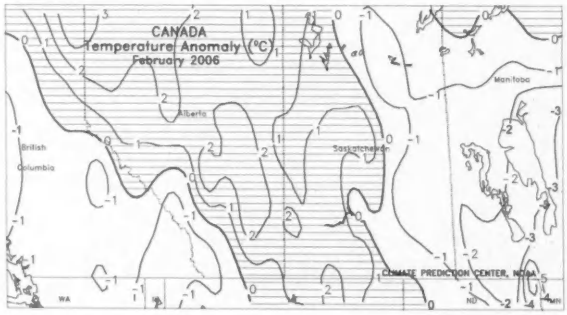

NO DATA
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE
BOTSWANA
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
Limpopo
Mpumalanga
North West
Gau.
SWAZ.
Free State
Kwazulu Natal
LESOTHO
Northern Cape
Eastern Cape
Western Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
SOUTH AFRICA
Average Temperature (°C)
February 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

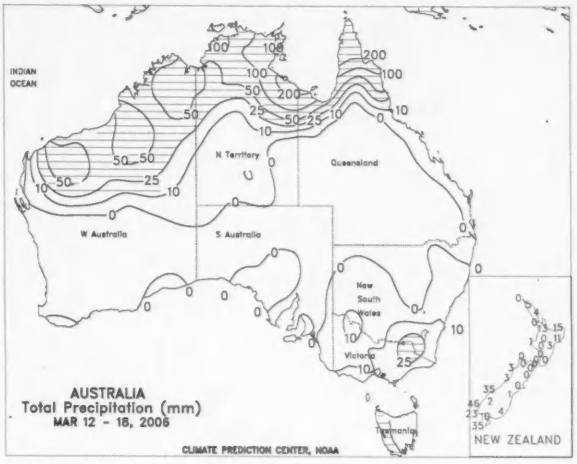

NO DATA
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE
BOTSWANA
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
Limpopo
Mpumalanga
North West
Gau.
SWAZ.
Free State
Kwazulu Natal
LESOTHO
Northern Cape
Eastern Cape
Western Cape
INDIAN OCEAN
SOUTH AFRICA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
February 2006
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Total Precipitation (mm)
February 2006
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 2006
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA


CANADA
Average Temperature (°C)
February 2006
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

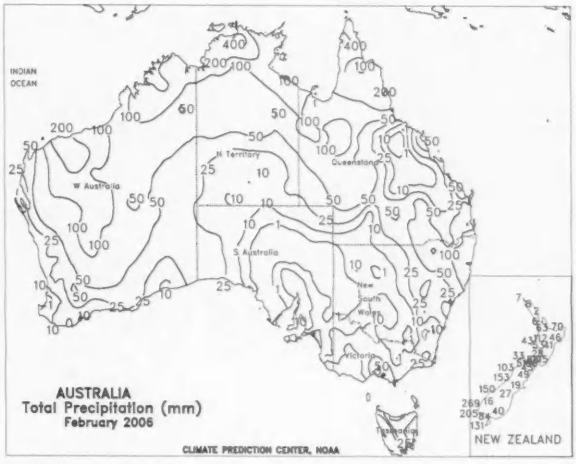

CANADA
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
February 2006
Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
Manitoba
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

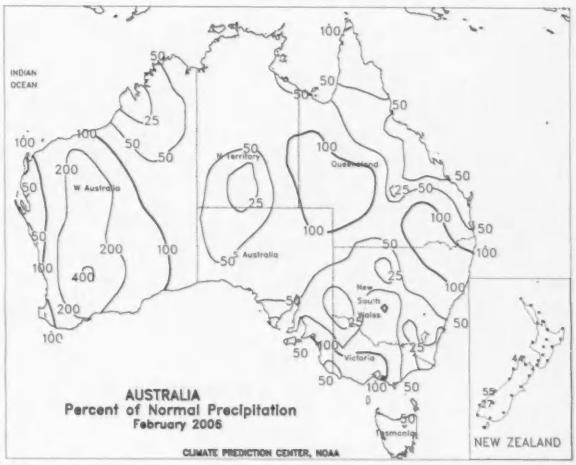


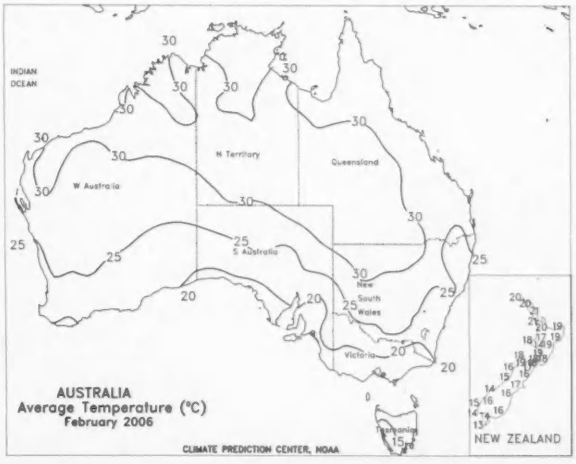
AUSTRALIA

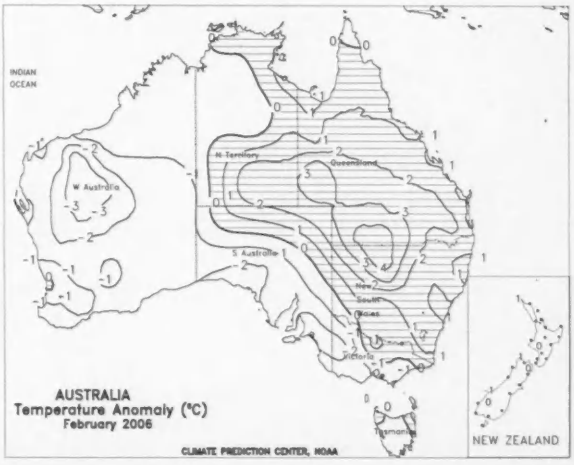
For the second consecutive week, mostly dry, warm weather (temperatures averaging about 1 degree C above normal) favored summer crop maturation and harvesting in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. Irrigation supplies remained adequate for immature cotton, while soil moisture continued to decline for immature dryland crops. In northeastern Australia, Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Larry made landfall south of Cairns with winds in excess of 150 knots (as reported by the Australia Bureau of Meteorology), causing flooding and widespread damage to infrastructure.

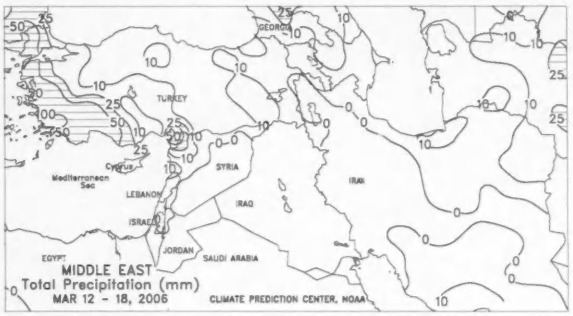
In February, near-normal rainfall maintained local moisture supplies for immature sorghum and cotton; however, periods of dry weather favored dry down of early maturing crops. Unseasonably warm weather aided summer crop maturation, but higher-than-normal evaporation rates increased the crop water demands of immature crops.







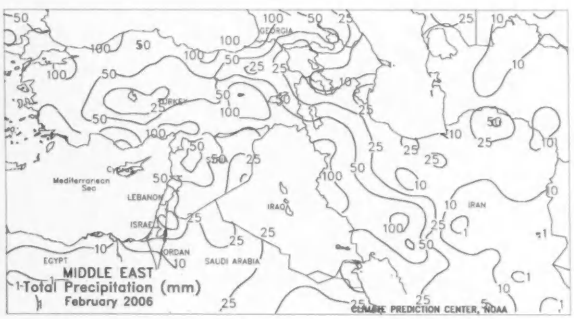


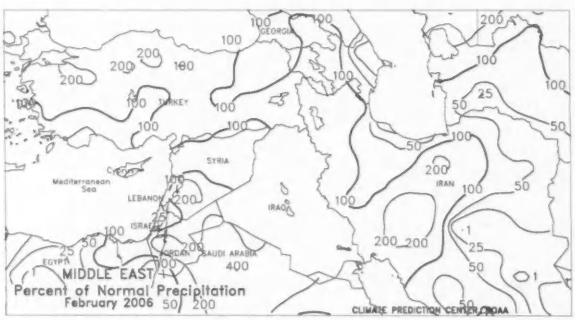


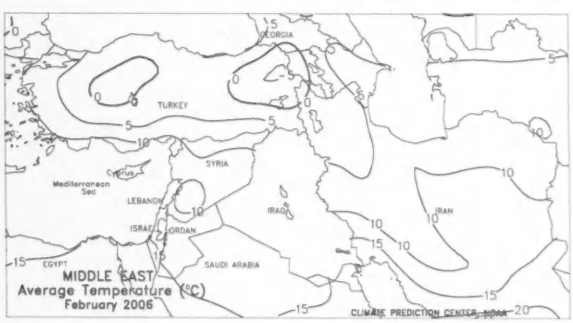
MIDDLE EAST

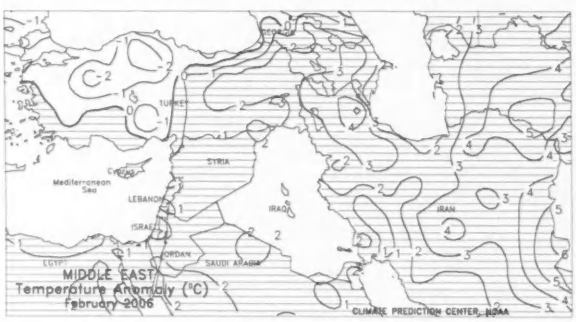
Above-normal temperatures promoted winter grain development, while persistent wetness in western Turkey slowed fieldwork. A pair of slow-moving storms brought widespread, locally heavy rain (20-120 mm) to the western third of Turkey, causing flooding and halting cotton planting. However, the rainfall maintained adequate to abundant moisture reserves for vegetative winter grains. Across the remainder of Turkey, light showers (5-25 mm) and temperatures up to 3 degrees C above normal promoted greening of winter grains. Farther south, favorable showers (10-20 mm) in western Syria contrasted with persistent, untimely dryness in central and eastern Syria. Winter grains in southern growing areas typically enter the moisture-sensitive heading stage during March, heightening the need for rainfall during the upcoming weeks in Syria. In northwest Iran, dry, warm weather (2-4 degrees C above normal) for a third consecutive week reduced topsoil moisture for vegetative winter grains.

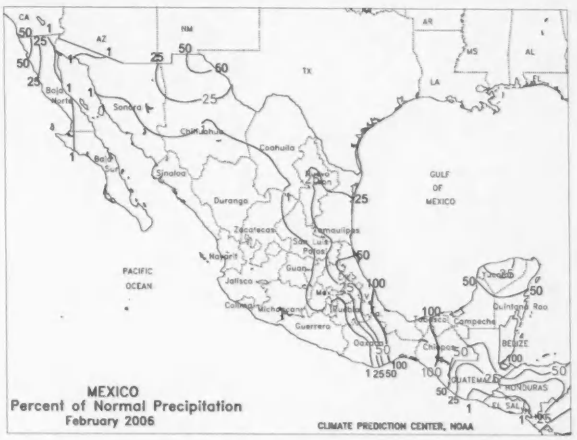
In February, above-normal rainfall in Turkey maintained adequate to abundant moisture supplies for dormant winter grains, although crops began to break dormancy at month's end as warmer weather returned to the region. Farther east, below-normal rainfall in Syria raised concerns for vegetative winter grains after a favorably wet January. In northwest Iran, heavy rain and snow during the first week of February benefited dormant winter grains, although dry, warm weather during the latter half of the month reduced topsoil moisture and melted the region's snowpack.

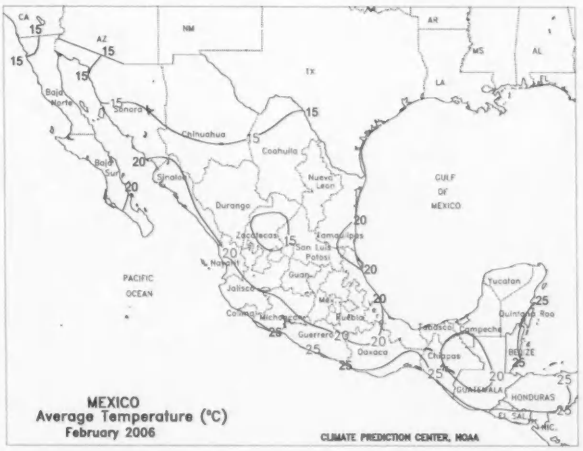


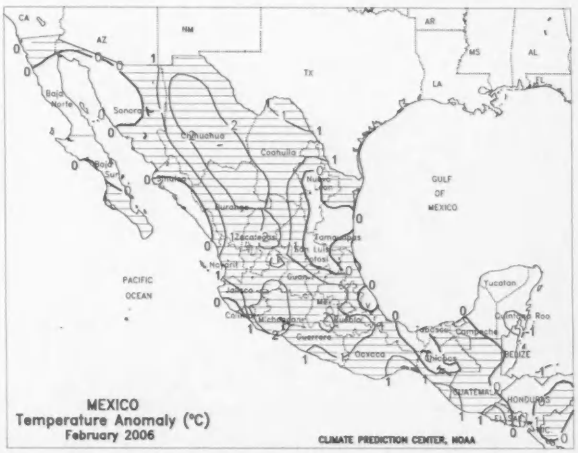












BRAZIL

Unseasonable warmth and dryness continued in the far south and expanded northward to include summer crop areas as far north as central Sao Paulo. Temperatures reaching the lower to middle 30s degrees C hastened maturation of soybeans, corn, and other summer crops in the region, although later planted soybean varieties in Rio Grande do Sul may have benefited from a few additional weeks of seasonal rainfall. Farther north, locally heavy showers (50-100 mm or more) hampered soybean harvesting in parts of the Center-West region, notably Mato Grosso and Goias. Variable showers (25-100 mm or more) increased moisture for immature soybeans in the northeastern interior, including key growing areas of western Bahia. Locally heavy showers (25-50 mm or more) also increased moisture for coffee, sugarcane, and cocoa along the eastern coast.

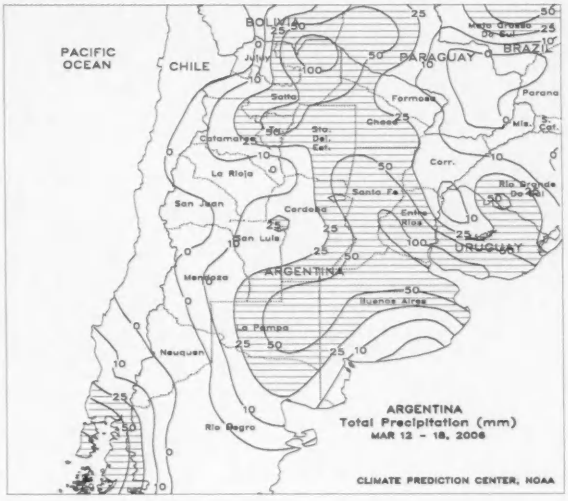
During February, frequent, locally heavy rain maintained adequate to abundant moisture levels in most major soybeans areas, improving prospects of immature crops in the northeastern interior but hampering harvesting in the Center-West region. The exception was in the south (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and southern Parana), where lighter-than-expected rain, accompanied by seasonable warmth, taxed soil moisture reserves. However, the frequency of the showers helped to mitigate the potential impact of below-normal rainfall on crop yield potential. Elsewhere, unseasonably light rainfall lowered moisture levels for coffee in Esperito Santo and eastern Minas Gerais, as well as sugarcane and cocoa elsewhere along the northeastern coast.

BRAZIL
Total Precipitation (mm)
February 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
ECUADOR
PERU
BRAZIL
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

BRAZIL
Percent of Normal Precipitation
February 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
ECUADOR
PERU
BRAZIL
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

BRAZIL
Average Temperature (°C)
February 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
ECUADOR
PERU
BRAZIL
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

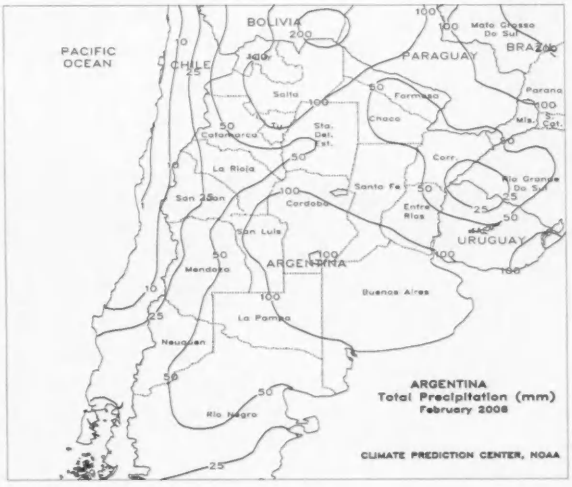
BRAZIL
Temperature Anomaly (°C)
February 2006
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
GUYANA
SUR.
FR. GUI.
ECUADOR
PERU
BRAZIL
BOLIVIA
PARAGUAY
CHILE
ARGENTINA
URUGUAY
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

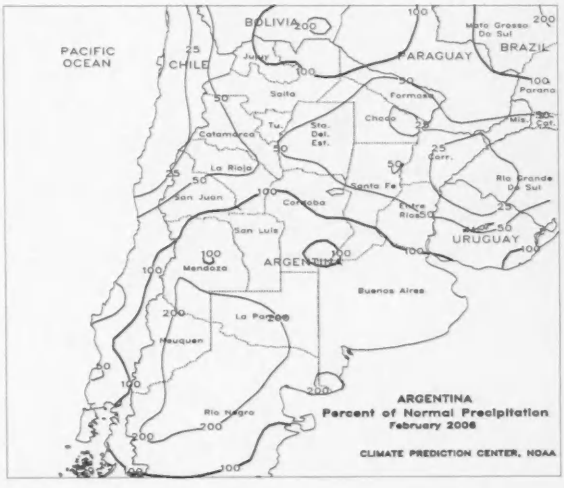


ARGENTINA

Moderate to heavy showers (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) covered most major growing areas of central and northern Argentina. However, rainfall in western Cordoba and southern Buenos Aires generally totaled less than 25 mm. The moisture benefited late-season development of second-crop soybeans, but in general, the rainfall was ill-timed for maturation and harvesting of sunflowers, corn, and cotton. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, sunflowers were 50 percent harvested as of March 16, compared with 54 percent last year. Sunseed was 28 percent harvested in Buenos Aires, Argentina's largest producer.

In February, an early-month spell of unseasonable warmth and dryness aided drydown and harvest of sunflowers and corn in central Argentina, but those conditions were unfavorable for immature soybeans. This was especially true for second-crop soybeans (planted after the winter wheat harvest) that were flowering and setting pods. Widespread rain brought some relief to soybeans later in the month, although locally heavy rain hampered harvesting of mature summer grains and oilseeds. In northern Argentina, warmer- and drier-than-normal maintained high moisture requirements for crops, especially cotton, and livestock for most of the month.





The *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* (ISSN 0043-1974) is published weekly and is jointly prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Publication began in 1872 as the *Weekly Weather Chronicle*. It is issued under general authority of the Act of January 12, 1895 (44-USC 213), 53rd Congress, 3rd Session. NOAA and IMC are responsible for managing, printing, and distributing the bulletin. The contents may be reprinted freely, with proper credit.

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